



# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

April 2011



EI2HX/P on 1296 MHz ATV with Monasterboice  
Round Tower and Cemetery in the background  
Story Page 22



## Society Officers 2010/2011

President:	Paul Martin EI2CA	087-2523908	<i>paul@comma.ie</i>
Vice President:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
Hon. Vice-Presidents:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Auditors:	Brendan De hÓra, EI3GV; Brendan Lynch, EI6GA		
Secretary:	Ger McNamara EI4GXB	087-2532512	<i>ei4gxb@gmail.co</i>
Treasurer:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
P.R.O.:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
AREN Co-Ordinator:	John Ronan EI7IG	086 8167310	<i>ei7ig@aren.ie</i>
Awards Committee:	Peter Grant EI4HX (Chair)	087-7944779	<i>ei4hxpperimental@eircom.net</i>
	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX, Pat O'Connor EI9HX.		
ComReg Liaison:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
Contest Manager:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	<i>thoscaffrey@hotmail.com</i>
EMC:	Brendan Minish EI6IZ	086-2501832	<i>ei6iz.Brendan@gmail.com</i>
EuroCom:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Gaeilge:	Pádraig Ó Meachair EI7GK	0404-67658	<i>ei7gk@esatclear.ie</i>
External Awards/WEIC:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.</i>
IARU:	Sean Nolan, EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.ie</i>
IARUMS:	Ger McNamara EI4GXB	087-2532512	<i>ei4gxb@gmail.co</i>
IRTS Shop:	Peter Grant EI4HX	087-7944779	<i>ei4hxpperimental@eircom.net</i>
Membership Officer:	Joe Ryan EI7GY	01-2854250	<i>memrecords@irts.ie</i>
Morse Testing Co-Ord.:	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Chief Morse Tester:	Dan Lloyd EI3AE	01-8382774	<i>daniellloyd@eircom.net.</i>
P.O. Box 462:	Michael McNamara EI2CL	01-8372493	<i>ei2clmike@eircom.net</i>
Publications Editor:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Publications Distribution	Sean Donelan EI4GK	01-2821420	<i>donelansean@gmail.com</i>
Radio News Editor:	Aidan Noone	085-7100511	<i>newsteam@irts.ie</i>
Repeater Co-ordinator:	John McCarthy EI8JA	087-9437500	<i>ei8ja@eircom.net</i>
Theory Examination:	Sean Nolan EI7CD	01-2851599	<i>ei7cd@gofree.indigo.</i>
	(Sub-Committee Chairman)		
VHF Manager:	Trevor Dunne EI2GLB	087-2217829	<i>ei2glb@hotmail.com</i>
WAI Awards Manager:	Tom Rea EI2GP	093-35523	<i>tomrea@eircom.net</i>
WAI Book Sales:	Dave Moore EI4BZ	087-6290574	<i>ei4bz@eircom.net</i>
Website Editor:	Seamus McCague EI8BP	01-2988045	<i>smccague@eircom.net</i>
Website Designer::	Gerry Kavanagh EI8DRB	087-7996336	<i>pagemaster@irts.ie</i>

## QSL Bureau

QSL Inwards Manager:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	<i>patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com</i>
QSL Outwards Manager:	Tony Baldwin EI8JK		<i>ei8jk@amsat.org</i>
Incoming QSL Sub Managers:			
0/1/Calls & SWL:	John Browne EI7FAB.		
2 Series Calls:	Thos Caffrey EI2JD	087-2953256	<i>thoscaffrey@hotmail.com</i>
3 Series Calls:	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX.	041-9841817	<i>patfitzpatrick@hotmail.com</i>
4 Series Calls:	Jim Ryan EI3DP	021-4632365	<i>pamasada11@yahoo.ie</i>
5 Series Calls:	Terry Webb EI4GLB	087-6199943	<i>terencewebb@hotmail.com</i>
6 Series Calls:	Rory Hinchy EI4DJB		<i>rhinchy@iee.org</i>
7 Series Calls:	Roland Byrne EI4GYB		<i>rolandbyrne@ireland.com</i>
8 Series Calls:	Brian Canning EI8IU	086-2514822	<i>brianei8iu@eircom.net</i>
9 Series Calls:	Dave Deane EI9FBB	083-3317940	<i>ei9fbb@oceanfree.net</i>

## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>				
Dublin	1100	7.055	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Roland EI4GYB, Ger EI4GXB Francis EI5GOB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Frank EI6EF, Liam EI3HK
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600 - 433.450 -		70.375 - 50.450
			FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF, Eddie EI3FFB
<b>Monday</b>				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Simon EI7ALB, Gerry EI3JU, Ger EI4GXB
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB

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## When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published. Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use **[www.irts.ie/renew](http://www.irts.ie/renew)** to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the IRTS Treasurer.

Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down. Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

**Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer**  
**[memrecords@irts.ie](mailto:memrecords@irts.ie)**

# Awards presented at the 2011 AGM

## Arup Cup

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio.  
Richard Hendy, MI3CQR

## Michael Collins Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio  
Seán Nolan EI7CD

## Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy

Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio  
Michael Clarke MI5MTC

## Sheila Piper Cup

Service to the IRTS News Service  
Peter Grant EI4HX

## The President's Cup

Presented at the discretion of the President of the Society  
Awarded for exceptional service to the hobby  
STEPS Volunteers

## The EI3AV Perpetual Cup

Leading IRTS Regional Representative  
Ger McNamara EI4GXB

## Ian Morris Memorial Trophy

SWL with the highest number of DXCC entities  
in the previous calendar year  
Brendan Nutley, EI 1429

## EI7IQ National 6 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 6 metre activity in the  
previous calendar year  
Dave Deane EI9FBB

## EI7IQ National 4 Metre Shield

Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 4 metre activity in the  
previous calendar year  
Pat Whitty EI8IQ

## Slievenamon Shield

Leading EI station operating FM on 70cms during July  
No entry

## Lough Boffin Shield

Leading SWL in the Winter 80m Counties Contest  
No entry

## Lough Ree Shield

SSB Portable Section Winter 80m Counties Contest  
Mayo Radio Experimenters Network EI7MRE/P

## Lough Allen Shield

SSB Fixed Section Winter 80m Counties Contest  
Aidan McGrath EI8CE

## Lough Derg Shield

SSB/CW Fixed Section Winter 80m Counties Contest  
Ger McNamara EI4GXB

## Lough Boderg Shield

SSB/CW Portable Section Winter 80m Counties Contest  
No Entry

## The EI5AJ Perpetual Cup

SSB/CW Fixed Section Summer 80m Counties Contest  
Niall Foley EI4CF

## Folan Shield

For home constructed equipment  
Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

## Kevin Freeny Trophy

For proficiency in equipment construction  
Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

## IRTS DX Trophy

Leading IRTS Member in the single operator sections  
of the annual RSGB IOTA contest  
Paul O'Kane EI5DI

## Hal Hodgens Trophy

Top scoring IRTS Member in the 12 hour CW  
section of the RSGB IOTA contest  
Barry Merrill EI/W5GN

## IRTS IOTA Trophy

Leading island (EJ) DX-pedition station in the annual  
RSGB IOTA contest  
EJ3Z - Shannon Basin and Galway REC

## Pete Daly Memorial Cup

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS CW Field Day  
Jeremy Sheehan EI5GM/P

## Paddy Smyth Memorial Cup

Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS CW  
Field Day  
EI7DAR/P - Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

## Paddy Daly Microphone

Winning station in the open section of the IRTS SSB Field Day  
EI7T/P - Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

## IRTS HF Shield

Leading station in the restricted section of the  
IRTS SSB Field Day  
EI3Z/P - Shannon Basin Radio Club

## Thomond Trophy

Winning station in the open section of the  
IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day  
EI9E/P - Network South Area REC

## Shandon Trophy

Winning station in the restricted section of the  
IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day  
EI7T/P Tipperary Amateur Radio Group

## Tom Donnellan EI9BG Cup

Top IRTS Member in the CW single op section of the  
CQWW DX contest  
Doug Turnbull EI2CN

## Dermot Cowley EI2AK Memorial Cup

Winning station in the 1.2GHz restricted section of the  
IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day  
Dundalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR/P



# South Dublin Radio Club

## Up Up and Away

South Dublin Radio Club have moved back to Ballyroan Community Centre in Dublin after the building was refurbished over the last two years.

The photos show the erection of the HF, VHF and 10GHz aerials at South Dublin Radio Club's newly refurbished QTH.

For insurance and legal reasons contractors were tasked with actually installing the equipment.

A seven and a half ton lorry with hydraulic basket was used to attach brackets for the two ends of the ribbon fed windom HF aerial.

For the VHF aerial a treble ladder was needed. Also a non-standard 2 inch to 1 and a half inch pole joiner was fitted. The aerial covers 6 metres, two metres and 70 centimetres. Due to the overhang on the large building, normal 24 inch wall brackets would not work so custom made 36 inch brackets were fabricated and galvanised. Not to be outdone a 10GHz modified satellite low noise block downconverter (LNB) was fitted just below the VHF aerial. This is the item with the yellow cap.

The contractors showed disbelief that an LNB will work without a dish, but we had pre-tested the setup over a 7km range and it will indeed work 100%.

This is for Amateur Television receive and is an impressively small package.

The club meets every Tuesday at 2000 and visitors and new members are always welcome. Directions are available on the club website:

<http://www.southdublinradioclub.ie>

Pictured below are members present on the night.





# Coolmine Rally 2011

Pictures by Thos EI2JD



Mike EI2DJ



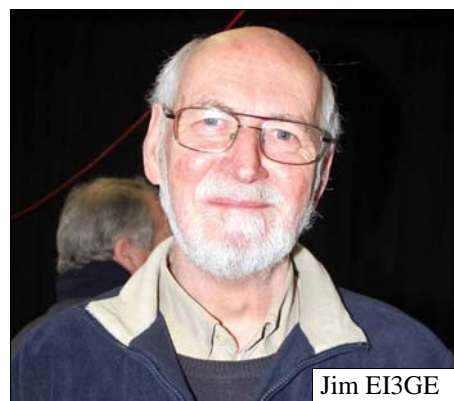
Pierce EI4CI



Brian EI9GTB



Jim 2I0SBI, John EI6GHB, Tony EI4DIB



Jim EI3GE



Anthony EI2KC and Dave EI9FBB



Tony EI6EQB and Tom EI6K



# Irish Radio Transmitters Society

## 79th Annual General Meeting, Limerick, March 27th 2011

Limerick Radio Club hosted the 79th AGM of the IRTS over the weekend of March 26/27th at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick.

Eighty seven guests attended the Annual Dinner and invited guests included Cllr. Kathleen Leddin, Deputy Mayor, Limerick City; Colin & Gwen Thomas G3PSM representing IARU Region 1 and Conor Conran EI4GTB representing ComReg. Colin Thomas also passed on the best wishes of Dave Wilson M0OBW, President of RSGB who was unavoidably absent and Kay Craigie N3KN President of ARRL.

On Sunday almost 200 visitors attended the Limerick Radio Club Rally and lots of happy faces were seen leaving with boxes of goodies!

The AREN MCP was in attendance which attracted a lot of interest and some potential new members.

The IRTS 80m news was read by Ger McNamara EI4GXB from the same large room that Terry Genes G4POP delivered his seminar on Ham Radio Deluxe.

All in all a very successful weekend was had by all and Limerick Radio Club would like to thank everyone who attended.

The Annual General Meeting was also well attended and the committee report and treasurer's report were adopted without any great debate.

Two new perpetual trophies were presented to the Society to honour the memory of two very active and committed radio amateurs who were members of Limerick Radio Club. They were Paddy Maher EI3AV and Eamonn Cassidy EI5AJ.



Daughters of the late Eamonn EI5AJ Sharon McInerney and Jane O'Donovan with IRTS President Paul Martin EI2CA holding the EI5AJ Memorial Cup.



Mary Maher, Oonagh Smith, Nancy Liffey, Nell Doorley, Deirdre King, all relatives of the late Pat Maher EI3AV with IRTS President Paul EI2CA and the EI3AV Memorial Cup



### Organisers and Guests at the IRTS Annual Dinner 2011

Mike Griffin EI4FMB LRC; Tony Condon EI2AW LRC Treasurer; Paul Martin EI2CA IRTS President; Colin Thomas G3PSM IARU Region 1; Councillor Kathleen Leddin, Deputy Mayor, Limerick City; Conor Conran EI4GTB ComReg; Ger McNamara IRTS & LRC.





Paddy EI8GY and Mary  
Ger EI4GXB and Maresa  
Brian EI9AL and Nuala  
Clifford EI5FQB and Charlene  
Sean EI4GK and Bríd

Tom EI5CA and Christine  
Brendan EI3GV and Betty  
Declan EI9FVB and Caroline  
Hugh EI2HI and Elaine  
Peter EI7CC and Mari (XYL of EI8CE)

Aidan EI8CE and Mary (XYL of EI7CC)  
Jim EI4CP and Evelyn  
Mike EI4FMB and Kelley  
David EI8BEB and Marion  
Terry G4POP and Mary McGee

Pictures from the IRTS Annual Dinner hosted by Limerick Radio Club on March 26th 2011





# HF Happenings

with Anthony Murphy EI2KC

## Welcome

Hello and welcome to the latest instalment of HF Happenings. You might have noticed a change of name and photo above, and you may have read in the last issue of Echo Ireland that Dave Deane EI9FBB, Ireland's one and only 10-band DXCC holder, had announced his intention to hang up his pen and pass the mantle on to someone else.

Well, I drew the short straw and have offered to continue the HF Happenings column for the foreseeable future. Lucky me, eh!

It's a great honour to have been asked to write this column. I have only been licensed for 18 months and in that short space of time I have enjoyed working tonnes of DX on the HF bands. DXing is by far my favourite aspect of ham radio. But before I bore you with details of who I am, I would like to pay tribute to EI9FBB and the fantastic work he has done for not only Echo Ireland over the past number of years, but also amateur radio in general.

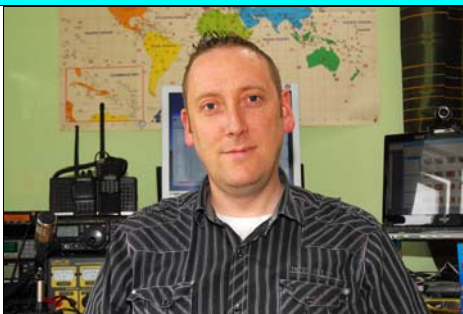
Many of you will know Dave as the guy who checks cards for the ARRL.

As well as trying to stay active on radio, Dave also has a young family and a job, and in addition he is heavily involved with various aspects of radio behind the scenes.

It takes great dedication to do all the things he has done and to remain active on the bands.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Dave on your behalf, and to congratulate him on his wonderful service to amateur radio in Ireland.

Thanks a million Dave, you are a credit to Echo India.



## A Little Bit About EI2KC

A tiny bit about me. I have been interested in radio since I was a young teenager. My older brother Des became interested in 11 metres and of course I soon followed. He later became licensed (EI7ERB), although I somehow convinced myself that I would never pass an exam that involved so much maths and so many formulae!! When I eventually did take the test in October 2009 it wasn't as bad as that.

But in the years before I was licensed I was always a short wave listener. There was always a receiver somewhere near at hand.

In my professional life I am Editor of the Dundalk Democrat newspaper and in my personal life I have a wife and five children.

And yes, before you all start, I have heard all the jokes about getting a TV. In my case, I got a radio. Well, lots of radios in fact, Hi!

I am a member of Dundalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR and serve as their PRO. I am also a member of the EI0W contest team.

I write a blog about amateur radio, <http://hamradioireland.blogspot.com> which some of you may be familiar with.

At the moment I am helping Doug EI2CN and Tony EI4DIB to teach radio theory to a class of students in Dundalk who hope to pass the amateur licence test in June.

I have a modest station in Drogheda, especially in terms of the antennas. My main antenna is an old Butternut multi-band vertical and I

also have an inverted V for 30 metres and an Antron 99 which is good for 12m and 10m.

The main rig is the Yaesu FT-1000MP and the second rig which I mostly use for 10m and 6m is the FT-897.

100 watts is the maximum output power.

With this station I have worked DX stations all around the world, in all continents. A lot of my DX contacts have been made on CW, although I enjoy a limited amount of digital and also SSB.

As I write this I have 211 entities worked, 198 on CW, 152 on phone and 59 on RTTY/PSK.

So that should provide lots of encouragement to all those who live in modest properties with small gardens to make the most of what you have. You will be surprised at what you can do!

Anyhow, less about me and more about HF Happenings.

## Recent DXpeditions

It's been a great couple of months for DXpeditions. We've been spoilt for choice of late. You may have been lucky enough to hear, or even work, any of the following which were active during February and March:

CY0 Sable Island, VP8ORK South Orkney Island, T70DXC San Marino, V55DLH Namibia, S9DX Sao Tome Island, TJ9PF Cameroon, 4A4A Revilla Gigedo, VU4PB Andaman Islands, 9N7AN Nepal, S21YZ Bangladesh, P29CW Papua New Guinea, 6W2SC Senegal and 5M2TT Liberia.

The EI's found it difficult to work 4A4A who seemed to be in a bit of a propagation black spot for Ireland, but not so Doug EI2CN who managed 13 band slots and Dave EI9FBB with nine, which shows my paltry effort of two band slots in a very bad light hi!

Also difficult for EI apparently was the VU4 DXpedition to Andaman Islands. I didn't make it into the log at all, and I know some other Echo India's who found it tough going. However, we had a good showing with VP8ORK – John EI7BA was top of the pile there with a massive 19 band slots, with Thos EI2JD in second place on 12 and Eoin EI9O on 10.

A total of 42 EIs made it through to that

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rare entity which is close to Antarctica.

Over 40 Irish hams worked the 5M2TT Liberia DXpedition, which featured a very proficient group of Italian amateurs with excellent ears! Top of the pile from EI was Thos EI2JD, followed closely by Don EI6IL. Well done to everyone who got 5M into the log.

Hopefully the QSL cards from previous DXpeditions have landed at your QTH by now. Some of those which have dropped in through my letterbox in recent months include cards for 5V7TT Togo, 9Q50ON Democrat Republic of Congo, and ZL8X Kermadec Islands (see photos).

In a lot of cases in order to receive confirmation of your QSOs with a DXpedition you do not actually have to send a QSL card.

Instead, many DXpeditions have websites where you can "order" your QSL which usually requires a small donation which can be made via PayPal. I find this particularly handy, because you don't have to worry about sending cash in the post. A donation of five euros in most cases will ensure a relatively swift delivery of your card, although usually a smaller donation will do fine. See each DXpedition website for details.

### Sable Island

By the way, for those of you who missed the CY0 Sable Island DXpedition, fret not. VE1AWW, Alan Wilson, arrived on Sable on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will be there for a few months, so there's a good chance you will get a chance to work Sable once Alan becomes active on the bands. Alan will be signing VE1AWW/CY0 so keep an ear out for him, and obviously watch for his callsign on the DX clusters.

### Propagation

Propagation has been improving dramatically as we came out of winter time, and things finally started to look good after one of the most prolonged solar lulls of the past 100 years. Indeed a couple of times in February and March the sunspot number went over 100 and the Solar Flux Index was higher again. In fact, the SFI has rarely been below 100 over the past few months.

One the SFI is over 100 you can expect good propagation on the higher frequencies (but also perhaps more noise on the lower ones!) and indeed by the time the

ARRL DX contest (SSB portion) came around in early March 10 metres opened to the States, and lots of very nice, and very easy, QSOs were had into the USA, including the west coast.

In early April 10 metres opened into the Far East and the Pacific and on one super day I managed to log KH2 Guam and 5M Liberia. And I noticed from cluster spots that a lot of Irish hams were enjoying the great conditions too. If you're interested in keeping track of the sunspot number and the solar flux, then [www.spaceweather.com](http://www.spaceweather.com) is a great website, updated daily.

Indeed on recent nights 10m has been open to South America, with some EIs logging ZP and CX and HC on that band after dark. Some of us are looking forward to 6 metres opening, but we're not allowed to speak about that in HF happenings, so you'll have to refer to the VHF section for any information on that subject!!

Of course HF Happenings would not be complete without looking forward to the DXpeditions that lie ahead and the interesting DX stations that will be on the air in the weeks and months ahead. So here's a taster of what you might be looking forward to if you're interested in catching some of the rarer DXCC entities. Or perhaps you're a newcomer to the hobby and want to get a nice prefix into the log!

### T6 Afghanistan

T6 - The Intrepid-DX Group continues to move forward with their plans to conduct the T6PSE DXpedition to take place from Afghanistan during ten days in May. There are some issues surrounding security concerns, with Afghanistan being a volatile region politically, so the exact dates and location of the DXpedition will not be announced until the eve of their activation. The team's primary objective is to provide as many DXers as possible a "new one" with this rare DXCC entity and, as a secondary objective, to give as many band-slots as possible.

"We anticipate that we will be working EU amateur stations nearly around the clock", they say, "but we will ask for their cooperation to allow us to work



North and South America during those brief periods each day when propagation will permit us to work those far away regions". The website for the expedition can be found at [www.intrepid-dx.com/t6pse/index.php](http://www.intrepid-dx.com/t6pse/index.php)

### 3D2/R Rotuma

Eddie, 3D2A/VK4AN, a member of the Pacific DXer's, recently announced: "A team of Pacific DXers, have 'all permits' in place and are planning to sail for Rotuma early October 2011 and operate for three weeks (October 15th to November 15th). The team so far consists of: Eddie/3D2A/VK4AN, Rocky/3D2DD, Bill 3D2(?) /VK4FW. Others are pending. We already have 24-hr power and accommodation arranged. Most of the 3D2A equipment is in Fiji already. We are seeking expressions of interest from experienced CW/SSB/Digital mode operators and possibly a 6m enthusiast. A 6m beacon will be established on 50.095 MHz. Rigs so far include K3, Flex5000A, Emtron DX1b amp, FT-900, Spiderbeam, wire antennas, DX88 vertical. This will be the anniversary of the FIRST operation from Rotuma by Eddie/ 3D2A/ VK4AN ... original license was 3D2XX/ rotuma in 1988. The callsign has not been issued yet, but we expect to be issued with either 3D2P or 3D20R. The alternative will be 3D2A/R(otuma)."

### 8P Barbados

Yuri, VE3DZ, will once again be active as 8P9AA between now and May 1st. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via his home callsign. PLEASE NOTE: QSL cards for Feb-Apr 2011 operations will be answered in early May 2011.

Fred, PY2XB, will be active as 8P9XB from St. Philip, Barbados (NA-021) between May 8-21st. Activity will be on 80-

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. He will have a 6m beacon on at 50.099 MHz (Grid Locator GK03gc). QSL via PT7WA.

### AH0, Mariana Islands

Kan, JJ2RCJ/AB2RF, will be active as AH0/AB2RF from the Saipan Rental Shack on Northern Mariana Island (OC-086) between May 1-5th. Activity will be focused on RTTY and PSK.

QSL via JJ2RCJ.

For more details about the Saipan Rental Shack, see the following Web page at: <http://saipan.rental-shack.com/english/index.html>

### TT8, Chad

Phil, F4EGS, will once again be active as TT8PK from N'djamena, Chad, between April 15th and June 15th. Activity will be limited due to his work schedule and spare time. Operations last time was on 40-10 meters using CW, SSB and some RTTY. QSL via F4EGS, by the Bureau or direct (see (QRZ.com) for details).

### V2, Antigua

Darrell, AB2E, will once again be active as V26E from Antigua (NA-100) tentatively between May 24-31st. Activity will include the CQWW WPX CW Contest (May 28-29th) as Single-Op entry. All operations before and after the contests will be either on the 30/17/12 meter bands or the lower bands.

QSL direct via AB2E for any and all operations from 1993 to present. Be sure to include an SASE, green stamp, or new IRC, or you won't get a card.

Sorry, no Bureau cards at this time, and no eQSL. As of February 28, 2011, all logs from all V26E operations (including 2010) have been uploaded to LoTW as well.

### V4, ST. Kitts and Nevis

John, W5JON, will once again be operat-

ing as V47JA from his Calypso Bay, St. Kitts, W.I., hillside vacation home (CQZ 8, IOTA NA-104, Grid FK87pg) between July 12th and August 2nd. Activity will be on 80-6 meters using SSB. His activity will also include both the CQWW VHF Contest and RSGB IOTA (SSB) Contest.

Equipment will be: Kenwood TS-590S, Yaesu FT-857D, KL-400 Amplifier (400 watts) and a 80-10m Multiband Dipole and S9 Vertical; 6m will be a 3 element Yagi.

His XYL Cathy, W5HAM, will occasionally operate as V47HAM.

ALL QSLs go to his home callsign W5JON.

### VK9, Lord Howe Island

Members of the Hellenic Amateur Radio Association of Australia (HARAOA Group) are planning a major DXpedition to Lord Howe Island (OC-004) as VK9HR for 10 days between July 8-17th. See OPDX.1002 for more details.

The VK9HR team is looking for "any experienced CW, SSB or digital modes operators interested in attending the VK9HR Lord Howe Island DXpedition." Please contact, if interested, the team leader Tommy, VK2IR at: [vk2ir@vk2ir.com](mailto:vk2ir@vk2ir.com) For more details, visit the VK9HR Web Page at: <http://www.vk9hr.com>

### The Royal Wedding

For those who were not invited to the upcoming Royal Wedding on April 29th of H. R. H. Prince William and Miss Catherine Middleton you can still celebrate the festive event by working United Kingdom stations with the special GR,

MR and 2R prefixes.

These special prefixes will be available from April 29th to May 9th. Complete details can be found at <http://www.rsgb.org/operating/weddingcall/>.

If you work any of these GR, MR or 2R prefixes you will



definitely want to ask which DXCC country they are operating from as many logging programs will automatically default these callsigns as England (G). Here are some examples of calls mentioned on the RSGB site:

G0ABC is amended to GR0ABC  
GM0ABC is amended to GR0ABC  
2E0ABC is amended to 2R0ABC  
2W0ABC is amended to 2R0ABC  
2J0ABC is amended to 2R0ABC  
M1ABC is amended to MR1ABC  
MI0ABC is amended to MR0ABC  
MD6ABC is amended to MR6ABC  
MU3ABC is amended to MR3ABC

### Reports Welcome

Well that's about all for this month's instalment of HF Happenings. I hope you've enjoyed this, my first column, hopefully the first of many, and that I have lived up to the high standards laid down by my predecessors.

In the meantime, I would dearly love to hear reports from EI amateurs about interesting or rare DX that you've worked, as I'd like this to become a feature of HF Happenings in the future.

If you'd like to share that nice contact you've made or if you've broken through a huge pile-up to work a Pacific Island or even if you've made a QRP contact into Australia or you've spoken with an Aeronautical Mobile station over Alaska, I'd love to hear about it.

Reports are welcome via email to [hamradioireland@gmail.com](mailto:hamradioireland@gmail.com)

Many thanks. And, as I might transmit in Morse:

VY 73 ES GL ES BST DX DE EI2KC SK

In English, that's bye bye and good luck and best DX from EI2KC!!







# The CQ WPX Awards Program



The CQ WPX Award recognizes the accomplishments of confirmed QSOs with the many prefixes used by amateurs throughout the world. Separate, distinctively marked certificates are available for SSB, CW, Digital (RTTY/PSK) and Mixed (CW, SSB/Phone, Digital).

## 1 Applications

- A.** All applications for WPX certificates (and endorsements) must be submitted on the official application form (CQ 1051). This form may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped, business-size (4 × 9 inch) envelope to the WPX Award Manager, Steve Bolia, N8BJQ, P.O. Box 355, New Carlisle, OH 45344. It is also available on CQ's website at <[www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awardapps.html](http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awardapps.html)>. Computer printouts with a minimum of 10-point size type are acceptable provided they conform somewhat to the CQ 1051 application form. Electronic applications will also be accepted and are encouraged. Please contact the WPX Award Manager for details.
- B.** All call letters must be in strict alphabetical order and only the entire call letters are required and must be shown.
- C.** All QSOs must be made from the same country.
- D.** All entries must be clearly legible.
- E.** Certificates are issued for HF (160-10) and 6 meters for the following modes and number of prefixes. Cross-mode QSOs are not valid for single-mode certificates.

Mixed:	400 prefixes confirmed.
CW:	300 prefixes confirmed.
SSB:	300 prefixes confirmed.
Digital:	300 prefixes confirmed.

A separate application is required for each mode.

- F.** Cards need not be sent, but they must be in the possession of the applicant. Any and all cards may be requested by the WPX Award Manager or by the CQ Awards Committee.
- G.** The application fee for each certificate is \$6.00 for CQ subscribers (subscribers must include a recent CQ mailing label, or a photocopy of it) and \$12.00 for non-subscribers, or the equivalent in IRCs at \$.50 each.
- H.** All applications and endorsement requests should be sent to the WPX Award Manager.

## 2 Endorsements

- A.** Prefix endorsements are issued for each 50 additional prefixes submitted. Minimum submission at any one time is 50 prefixes.
- B.** Band endorsements are available for working the following numbers of prefixes on the various bands:

1.8 MHz	50	3.5 MHz	175	5 MHz	175*
7 MHz	250	10 MHz	250	14 MHz	300
18 MHz	300	21 MHz	300	24 MHz	300
28 MHz	300	50 MHz	250		

\* The initial level of 175 prefixes for 60 meters may be increased in the future to no more than 250 when and if sufficient additional administrations permit amateur operation on the band.

- C.** Continent endorsements are available for working the following numbers of prefixes in the respective continents:  
North America 160, South America 95, Europe 160, Africa 90, Asia 75, Oceania 60.
- D.** Endorsement applications may be submitted by computer printout or on CQ form 1051. Use a separate application for each mode of your endorsement application. Electronic submission is preferred and encouraged.
- E.** For prefix endorsements, list only additional call letters confirmed since the last endorsement application.
- F.** A self-addressed, stamped envelope or proper IRCs for surface or airmail return is required, and \$1.00 or 2 IRCs for each endorsement sticker.

## 3 Prefixes

- A.** The letter/numeral combinations which form the first part of the amateur call will be considered the prefix. Examples: K6, N6, WD4, HG1, HG19, WB2, KC2, OE2, U3, ZS66, etc. Any difference in the numbering, lettering, or order of same shall constitute a separate prefix.
- B.** A prefix will be considered if licensed by the governing authority in the country of operation after November 15, 1945.
- C.** In cases of portable operation in another country or call area, the portable designator would then become the prefix. Example: WN5N/7 would count as WN7, J6/WN5N would count as J6, KH6/WN5N would count as KH6, etc. Portable designators without numbers will be assigned a zero (Ø) at the end of the designator to form the prefix. Example: LX/WN5N would count as LXØ. The portable prefix must be an authorized prefix of the country/area of operation. Maritime mobile, mobile, /A, /E, /J, /P, interim license class identifiers and unofficial prefixes do not count as prefixes.
- D.** All calls without numbers will be assigned a zero (Ø) plus the first two letters to form a prefix. Examples: XEFTJW would count as XEØ, RAEM would count as RAØ, AIR as AIØ, etc.

## WPX Honor Roll

The WPX Honor Roll recognizes the operators and stations that maintain a high standing in confirmed, current prefixes. The rules, therefore, reflect the belief that Honor Roll membership should be accessible to all active radio amateurs and not be unduly advantageous to the "old timers." With the exceptions listed below, all general rules for WPX apply toward Honor Roll credit.

A minimum of 600 prefixes is required to be eligible for the WPX Honor Roll. No certificates are issued, but a listing of members appears in CQ every other month.

- A.** Only current prefixes will be counted toward the WPX Honor Roll standings. Prefixes will be deleted from the Honor Roll listing ten years after they are no longer authorized for use by the governing authority or by the ITU.

- B.** Honor Roll applicants must submit their list of current prefixes (entire call required) separately from their regular WPX applications. Electronic submission is preferred and encouraged. A simple ASCII file or an Excel spreadsheet showing just the call is sufficient. Contact the Award Manager for details. Use of regular form 1051 or a computer printout is also permissible. Handwritten applications must be legible.

Indicate Honor Roll and mode desired. Forms may be obtained by sending a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope or 1 IRC (foreign stations send extra postage or IRCs if airmail is desired) to the WPX Award Manager.

A separate application must be made for each mode.

Lifetime Honor Roll fee for each mode is \$10.00.

A computer printout of your individual Honor Roll file may be obtained from the WPX Award Manager for \$6.00 plus a self-addressed envelope and sufficient postage for return.

- C.** Endorsements for the Honor Roll may be made for 25 or more prefixes.

A \$1.00 endorsement fee plus an SASE or IRC is to be included.

For prefixes by countries see the Callbook listing

## WPX Award of Excellence

This is the ultimate award for the prefix DXer. The requirements are 1000 prefixes in Mixed mode, 600 prefixes in SSB, 600 prefixes in CW, all 6 continental endorsements, and the 5 non-WARC band endorsements 80-10 meters. Special endorsement bars are available for Digital, 160, 60, 30, 17, 12 and 6 meters for those who have also qualified for those endorsements (see Rules 1E and 2B for qualifying numbers of prefixes).

The WPX Award of Excellence plaque fee is \$60.00. The endorsement bars are \$6.50 each.





# My Magnetic Loop Experiences

By Jack O'Connell EI7HO

My interest in loop construction goes back a long way but an article by James R. Bolton, G3HBN, in the June 05 issue of the RSGB RadCom magazine fired my interest and set me on my way in earnest. In this article James set out his design for a portable magnetic loop using wires instead of the usual co-ax or copper tubing.

I had just retired from full time employment in Southampton and returned to Ireland and was living in a small, ground floor, apartment with all the restrictions that go with such limited space. The only plus side to my situation was that I had access, through a trapdoor in the ceiling, to a small attic space. The attraction of the wire construction was the ability to easily alter the size to get it through the trapdoor and quickly restore it in the attic without having to desolder anything and especially not having to re-solder anything in the attic space which was just a crawl space in reality.

My first thoughts on James' design led to my usual first question, "Why not this

way", from which my first design draft evolved and the Mk 1 loop was constructed.

I purchased an air-spaced capacitor to tune this loop from 10 metres down to 40 metres for Tx/Rx and to 80 metres on Rx only.

This capacitor, with slow motion drive, was also used for test tuning of the Mk2 loop later on.

I am still using the Mk 1 loop for the higher HF bands 20 through 10 metres where it is reasonably efficient.

The only alteration to this design was the replacement of the air-spaced capacitor used in the original build with a Vacuum Variable Capacitor with the addition of a home-brew slow-motion drive for tuning. This was all very fine but with the solar minimum giving very poor band conditions, I started to look at increasing the size and efficiency of the loop on the lower HF bands with 80 metres as the real target.

The "Why Not" question again reared its head. Assuming the theory that electricity only travelled on the surface of the conductor had some validity, why not use enough wire to simulate a large diameter copper tube. From this I developed the Mk 2 design.

Initially I used the air-spaced capacitor to tune the loop by hand and had quite good results on 80m receive. The addition of the slow motion drive enabled more accurate tuning and it was now possible to Tx on 80m with the use of the FT990's internal tuner.

I acquired another, larger vacuum variable which I purchased on Ebay.

As you can see, this was a very large unit but luckily it came with the original ceramic mounting brackets and ceramic insulated drive coupling to which I duly added a home-brew slow-motion drive and remote control unit.

The available space also dictated the size and shape of the loop as well. I settled on an elongated hexagon measuring 1.4 metres wide by 1.3 metres high with 32 separate wires, each of which had 32 strands. I didn't attempt to calculate the total area of conductor but I reckoned it was, at least, close to the area of an 80mm diameter tube.

According to my research this was the maximum useful size of tube, beyond this it was diminishing returns.



Present set up of the Mk1 Loop and vacuum capacitor undergoing tests

The loop was installed in the attic and with a struggle it was oriented in the best compromise position and the tuning assembly placed on the floor alongside of the loop ready for testing.

The noise level was very low at this QTH so it was possible to hear VK, ZL and various North and South American stations on 80m using grey line propagation, usually early mornings.

I think you could say I was pretty chuffed with myself.

Just as I managed to get this loop working satisfactorily the move to my present QTH put the whole project on hold and all had to be dismantled for the move.

When the move was completed in December 2008, the first priority was a survey of the attic, it is bigger than the previous one but lots more electrics, alarms and plumbing as well as a disastrous



Mk 1 Loop and air spaced capacitor



Air spaced capacitor with slow motion drive



Mk 2 Loop and air spaced capacitor



Modified Mk 2 Loop with vacuum capacitor and drive assembly

noise level on the lower frequencies, this only became obvious later of course, in particular, on 80m so here we go again hi.

Dismantling and moving the antennas highlighted a problem with the construction materials.

The wire supports were cut from the remnants of some plastic fascia left over from work on the last QTH, they would probably have been fine if I wasn't so fussy about them looking good.



Vacuum Capacitor with final arrangement of slow motion drive

A number of them broke off at the weak point which was where the plastic met the timber supports so I decided to use some off-cuts of MDF board to make a new set for each loop starting with the larger loop.

I also changed the wire and reduced the number of wires to 24. With hindsight I think this was a mistake but I cannot prove that yet. (the wire from the old loop is being re-used on the Mk3 loop I am working on at the moment)

The next problem was to get the assembly into the attic. The construction of the frame allowed for it to collapse with the



John EI6AK and Bill EI2GO

removal of 4 screws from the centre pair of vertical struts which allowed the antenna to pass through the trapdoor. Refit the 4 screws and we were ready to go. Nothing is that simple is it? The antenna was too wide to fit in the clear space beside the trapdoor so a less favourable position had to be used with the loop cable-tied to the roof truss but at least it was in position for trials.

The next step was to run some RG213 co-ax which involved drilling holes in walls and ceilings and testing began.

This was when I discovered I had a disastrous noise level. Having allowed a sufficient length of time for the air around the QTH to turn back to normal colour, Hi, it was decision time again and being the stubborn cuss that I am it could only go one way.

My good friends, John EI6AK and Bill EI2GO were put on standby for a working visit and with help assured (thank goodness for good friends and blind faith) I purchased a 100m drum of Westflex 103 co-ax, a pair of Buxcom Un/Uns and 2 Kenwood Low Pass Filters.

Bill and John duly arrived on the appointed day. We installed 3 runs of co-ax, (one for each loop and one for 2 metres) and the low pass filters were mounted on the wall behind the desk to complete the feed line.

The mandatory tea and biscuit review session followed to complete the successful work session.

Unfortunately the noise continued to be a problem. A BHI NEIM1031 Noise Eliminating DSP Module was added (courtesy of a birthday gift from son Paul) to the audio line from the FT990 and this improved reception.

I could now hear the 80m news on a good day and managed to be heard a few times as well – Progress !!!!

More distant stations were scarce though as the noise level was now an S7 and sometimes up to 10 db over S9 smothering most of the DX so the story continues with the MK3 version underway.

I hope, if I can figure a solution, this version will be rotatable. There isn't room for a normal rotator and if there was the rotator would be too noisy, especially at 0400, which would expose my stealth operating. The lease says very clearly "No antennas or flagpoles".

The up side is it keeps me busy Hi.

EI7HO

## Irish Amateur Television Club

The new Irish Amateur Television Club Website is now up at [www.IATC.ie](http://www.IATC.ie).

The site contains repeater information, details of member projects and more.

Please take the time to have a look and contribute if you can. We are particularly looking for submissions to the Gallery and Project pages, email anything you think will be of interest to other operators or enthusiasts to [ei9ed@iatc.ie](mailto:ei9ed@iatc.ie) [<mailto:ei9ed@iatc.ie>]

## New Optical Communication Record Set in the U.K.

On 3rd April a new distance record set for optical communication by a group of radio amateurs from North-East England.

The distance worked was just a few metres short of 90km. Signals were exchanged on FM and SSB at remarkable strengths.

The contact was made from Race Head in County Durham, which is locator IO94VS to Danby Moor near Whitby, which is locator IO84NK.

The team at Race Head included two stations, Stuart, G8CYW running the transverter and LED transceiver of his design featured in recent articles in RadCom, and Brian, G8KPD also running his version of the designs, plus separate receive and transmit heads.

The station on Danby Moor was operated by Rob, M0DTS using his version of the transverter featured in RadCom.

## Ukrainian Hams Loose Frequencies on HF & UHF

Some restructuring news out of the Ukraine that's bad news for ham radio operators in that nation. This, as the Ukrainian government has affirmed new rules for amateur radio operations that have resulted in spectrum losses on the High Frequency, UHF and microwave bands.

According to an e-mail from Alexander Doshchich, UY0LL, the spectrum withdrawn from access by Ukrainian hams includes 10.100 to 10.150 and 14.250 to 14.350 MHz on the HF bands. On UHF an above the losses include 1240 to 1300 MHz, 2300 to 2450 MHz, 5670 to 5850 MHz and numerous other spectrum slots right on up to 248 to 250 GHz. (UY0LL)

*Amateur Radio Newslines*



## Radio Fun. “Radio for Radio’s sake?”

Peter Mac Dougall MCII, EI-299, G7VEW

When the British Broadcasting Company was granted its first charter the aim was, ‘To Inform, Educate and Entertain’. Radio Eireann had similar aims but with a uniquely Irish format. As the early years progressed and Auntie Beeb became a corporation and more-or-less an arm of the government the entertainment was somewhat subdued and meant to appeal to the middle and upper classes, in fact, those rich enough to afford the sets. Here in Ireland we had the added expense and inconvenience of the battery/accumulator system and the limits of a less powerful transmitter.

The people who sought information and education via radio could spin their primitive dials and find comments, opinions and ‘facts’ from many alternatives to the BBC and a large number of broadcasters from the continent had an ‘English Service’.

Many of them built-up a huge regular audience, especially on Sundays when the Director General had deemed, “No light-hearted music or comedy”.

European stations were, to a large extent controlled by their own governments, with some notable exceptions that Britain regarded as ‘pirates’ before the second world war. Radio Normandy and Radio Luxembourg will be well-remembered here; the former was destroyed during the D Day landings and the latter taken over at the same time by the USA ‘sycorps’ propaganda service.

The politically motivated stations soon found that their doctrines might be opposed to the official line heard from London and by 1939 plans were laid for the birth of ‘radio propaganda’ – an important tool that we in the 21<sup>st</sup> century would know better as ‘winning the hearts and minds’.

When WW2 began in 1939 ‘normal’ broadcasting became interspersed with announcements that followed the political slant dictated by each country’s leaders. Claims of battle wins and losses would be either played-down or ‘bulled-up’ in news bulletins and a psychological war was fought on the airwaves in the hope of calming, encouraging and influencing the millions of listeners who were eager to hear the latest news.

After all, everyone knew someone who had ‘gone-away-to-war’ and followed progress avidly on their radio receivers, the updates being quicker than the newspapers - and, strangely, Irish newspapers were subject to censorship when British papers circulated in Eire quite freely.

The best known broadcasters were on the ‘Axis’ side of the belligerents: Germany had ‘Lord Haw-Haw’ and ‘Slippery Sam’; Japan had ‘Tokyo Rose’ and Italy used a succession of unnamed presenters whose comic accents bore the brunt of many a music hall comedian’s jokes. Later Billy Cotton was allowed to insert jokes between his ‘Band Show’ tunes and wartime comedy shows, ‘Bandwagon’ and ‘ITMA’ became almost compulsory listening.

Britain took Haw-Haw very seriously in the early war years and, after the USA joined the war ‘Rose’ was the subject of a high-power FBI enquiry; she was later found to be a real American girl. Their apparently feasible facts became suspect when ‘Germany Calling’ told the listeners that Blackpool Tower had been bombed and ‘Rose’ asked incredulous US Marines to ‘lay down their arms and join the team that’s gonna

win!” She became very unpopular when she insinuated that servicemen’s wives and girlfriends were being unfaithful while they were away on ‘Uncle Sam’s Lost Cause’!

Whether they wrote their own scripts or merely read what their propaganda department dictated – the most famous two certainly embodied their pronouncements with distinct personalities; Germany’s voice came as a plausible aristocratic alternative to Winston Churchill while Japan’s ‘girl impersonated the seductive tones of an American late-night female deejay using the jazz and swing music that was lacking on the BBC. Listeners continued to tune-in but, in the later war years, treated what they heard as comic entertainment – and the programmes from Radio Rome featured better classical music than most English-speaking services, including those from the BBC.

Britain was slow to realise the potential of propaganda, the Director General followed his predecessor’s format and resisted government influence, insisting instead on ‘a balanced view’. Irish radio tried not to get involved in any way, other than on regular broadcasts by Mr de Valera – these were also sent-on to America in the hope of justifying neutrality when US troops arrived in the north.

So, with the help of the British GPO and a handful of ‘moonlighting’ BBC engineers several ‘black stations’ (following an unofficial experiment during the Spanish civil war) began to transmit from the UK, in French, German, Italian and Dutch.

‘Black’ because they were totally unsanctioned and completely separate from the BBC’s legitimate foreign services.

One of WW2’s later successes came directly from messages sent in seemingly innocuous phrases to resistance movements on the mainline occupied continent prior to D-Day.

Irish Official classified papers have recently been released that show details of Germany’s broadcasts specifically beamed to Northern Ireland and The Irish Free State. They were monitored and transcribed by both the Stormont Civil Service and The Department of Foreign Affairs here and detailed confidential reports were studied. N Ireland, as part of the UK and initially called Ulster by the clandestine stations was actively involved on the Allied side whereas Eire was neutral and would not even class the conflict as a war, declaring an ‘Emergency’ instead.

The Irish government (and the people who had radios here) were continually under pressure from England, Germany and the USA to relinquish their independence in the allies’ favour; Britain wanted the use of strategic bases to shorten the distances involved in the Atlantic theatre of war, Germany hoped to use Eire as a potentially friendly jumping-off point for an invasion force. The USA was concerned about merchant shipping losses and had a huge population of ex-pat Irish that looked to America to intervene “without prejudice” and perhaps shorten the war.

In the event, the new republic stayed neutral during the whole conflict.

Into this unpredictable environment and with first-hand advice and guidance from the only German Embassy still in an ‘Empire’ country came three regular daily broadcasts from the Irish Service of German Radio.

Hamburg, Munich and Luxembourg studios and transmitters were used for talks by senior Irish dissidents resident in Berlin

and 'dedications and requests' for Irish music were played, the pretence implied that real Irish people had written-in to voice their support for German principals.

Notable broadcasters found in the newly opened secret papers include;

'The New British Broadcasting Station' – 'Radio National' and 'Workers' Challenge Radio' – all featuring a ubiquitous 'Pat O'Brien' from Germany and a slightly puzzling 'Free India Radio' specifically meant for Ireland's republican sympathisers and Ulster's nationalist population "To resist Empire Rule" – from a high power transmitter in Japan.

Another interesting one, '*Radio Redaktion*' broadcast entirely in the Irish language.

Its authenticity was emphasised by the use of a presenter with the same name as a legitimate newsreader and another similarly named famous Irish comedian.

Radio Eireann, the official state broadcaster went to great pains to employ the genuine presenters, as did the BBC Home and Forces Service – hopefully at the same time as the bogus voices – and cousins Harry O'Donovan and Jimmy O'Dea were honoured for their contributions to neutrality after the war.

Worldwide shortwave stations that broadcast propaganda nowadays still exist but are probably, with the notable exception of Radio Pyongyang, more subtle in their approach, possibly because 'the wireless' is no longer the novelty it was.

We are all aware that everything we hear can be questioned – the information presented as fact contains less political innuendo. American right-wing and religious stations are a possible exception?

And of course Amateur Radio is prevented by international agreements from broadcasting any messages of a 'sinister or secretive nature'. Just in case, ordinary licensed Amateurs handed-in their transmitting equipment for the duration of WW2 and the few that had high powered sets donated them for 'black operations' – controlled for the government's purposes and in some cases actual military defence uses; notably coast watching, weather forecasting and aircraft reporting.

Modern Irish licences prohibit Amateur operations near to docks, harbours or airports but in the case of a future 'Emergency' no doubt we will be required to give up our hobby for a higher purpose!

We can listen-in to broadcasts in English from a dwindling number of foreign stations but nowadays the almost universal theme is based on the culture and everyday way of life in that country.

It would be nice to have our own International Irish Shortwave broadcasting station!

World news seems sometimes to be 'slanted' a little compared to our own national stations but that is a good thing. It allows us to make up our own minds, even if we no longer call ourselves a 'free state'.

Radio doesn't fool us any more; we use it more for entertainment than anything else.

We have 'wised-up' and can spot a con like propaganda ..... Can't we?

73 de "The Teenage Haw-Haw"!

## Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society

Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society meet on the 1st Thursday of every month.

At 2000 on Thursday 2nd June 2011, they will hold their annual BBQ at the scout campsite in the Crawfordsburn Country park.

As always, visitors are most welcome.

More information from Mike GI4XSF on 028 4277 2383, or club website :

<http://www.bdars.com>

## Northern Ireland Amateur Radio Club of the Year

The RSGB Regional Manager for Northern Ireland, Peter Lowrie MI5JYK has announced that Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club has retained the Regional Club of the Year Award despite stiff competition from West Tyrone Amateur Radio Club.

The Lough Erne club and twelve other regional award winners are now in the UK Final with the chance to take the overall title of RSGB National Club of the Year and a £1000 prize.

The presentation of its Regional Award took place at Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club's Pearl Anniversary Rally on Sunday 17th April in the SHARE Centre.

## Kells Radio Club Repeater Crossband Facility

Kells Radio Club would like to announce the switching on of the EI2LLX crossband facility.

For the moment this cross band connects to SEARG repeater networks and can be activated by DTMF \*470 with a T.O.T. of 15 minutes.

This crossband repeater can be activated from SEARG repeater network and also GI stations can activate the southern repeater system via the Cavan repeater EI2LLX using the same codes.

To disconnect the repeater use DTMF #6

## Change of 40m WAI Frequency

**Please note that the  
40m WAI Frequency has been changed  
from 7.068 to 7.170**

## Thanks

Thanks to the photographers who kindly contributed to this issue.

**Thos Caffrey EI2JD, Joe Ryan EI7GY,  
Paddy Smyth EI8GY, Padraic Baynes EI9JA,**



**Irish Radio Transmitters Society**  
**Treasurer's Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 to the Annual General Meeting**  
**Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick 27<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2010 for approval.

The Income and Expenditure Account shows a deficit of €1,270. This is the first year since 2005 that the outturn for the year has been in the red. Although Income from subscriptions has kept up well, some other sources of Income have shown a decline. In addition, on the Expenditure side some unanticipated expenses contributed to an overall increase in outgoings.

The generous donation of his car to the Society by John Riordan EI6IJ is reflected in the 2010 Accounts. To date a net figure of €4,989 has been achieved from the sale of the car and associated rig while some small items still remain to be disposed of. It is John's wish that the funds raised be utilised to promote Amateur Radio among elderly and disabled people and the outgoing Committee has done a considerable amount of work towards achieving this end. It will be up to the in-coming Committee to continue to develop this project.

The collection of annual subscriptions has always been a major part of the Treasurer's responsibilities. In an effort to provide a variety of payment methods to the membership, a "Pay by PayPal" option was introduced during the year. In addition to its other advantages, this system for the first time gives members the opportunity to pay their subscriptions by Credit Card. I am pleased to report that PayPal was an immediate success and is likely to be utilised by an increasing percentage of the membership in the future. My thanks to Joe Ryan EI7GY and Paul O'Kane EI5DI who did the preparatory work on this project and persuaded me to "Get with the programme"!!

Although the Society is adequately funded and there are no plans to increase member subscriptions, cost pressures are now beginning to surface in a number of areas. On the income side we are experiencing a static or slightly declining membership with a growing number of members opting for Concessionary Membership due to unemployment. Addressing these trends must be a priority for the Society in the coming years.

The 2010 deficit has been transferred to the General Reserve Fund which now stands at a figure in excess of €46,000.

My thanks to all who supported me in looking after the funds during 2010 - particularly to those who paid their subscriptions on time, to Joe Ryan EI7GY whose support and advice was often sought and readily given and to the Auditors Brendan de hOra EI3GV and Brendan Lynch EI6GA who went about their work with efficiency and good humour.

*Signed:*

*Sean Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer*

**Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

	2009	2010
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Equipment	Nil	Nil
Prize Bonds	£89	€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.	£754	€754
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Stock for Re-sale	€1,344	€1,258
Cash on Deposit	€43,479	€43,978
Cash at Bank	€6,792	€11,181
	<u>€51,795</u>	<u>€56,417</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€52,638</b>	<b>€57,260</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>Nil</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b><u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u></b>	<b><u>€52,638</u></b>	<b><u>€57,260</u></b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
General Reserve	€47,503	€46,233
IARU Conference Reserve	€1,135	€6,038
John O'Riordan Car Fund	0	€4,989
	<u>€52,638</u>	<u>€57,260</u>

*Signed:*

*Seán Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer*

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society

### Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

Income	2009	2010
Subscriptions	24,854	24,956
Donations	1,112	80
Advertising	1,400	1,481
Book Sales	(309)	(1,022)
CD Rom Sales	270	135
Investments & Bank Interest	920	499
Theory & Morse Test	1,767	1,295
Less Expenses	517	1,250
	-----	-----
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>29,497</b>	<b>27,329</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Newsletter		
Printing	7,915	9,385
Postage/Delivery	4,912	12,827
Callbook	3,279	0
Postage & Telephone	1,244	1,233
QSL Service Outgoing	600	600
QSL Service Incoming	892	820
Stationery & Admin.	472	819
Radio News	72	0
Insurance	669	669
Committee Meetings	1,610	1,301
AGM Costs	559	765
IARU Dues	924	924
Licence Fees	230	260
Conference Reserve	1,600	1,600
Bank Charges	461	574
Trophies etc.	403	437
Website Costs	299	305
Friedrichshafen Hamfest	94	139
Donations	136	459
STEPS	1,047	942
Miscellaneous Costs	132	99
	-----	-----
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>27,550</b>	<b>28,599</b>
<b>Surplus for Year</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>(1,270)</b>
	-----	-----

## Irish Radio Transmitters Society

### Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010

#### 1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

#### 2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	€47,503
Less Defecit for year 2010	€1,270
	-----
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	€46,233
	=====

#### 3 IARU Conference Reserve

Balance on 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2010	€5,135
Less Expenditure	€697
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	€1,600
	-----
Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2010	€6,038
	=====

#### 4 John O'Riordan Car Fund

Sale of car	€5,000
Sale of Rig	€560
Ess Expenses (Tax & Insurance)	€571
Balance on December 31st 2010	€4,989
	=====

#### 5. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price of €754 (330 shares @ €2.29 per share). The Market Value of these shares on 18th March 2011 was €201 (62 cents per share)

#### 6 Cash on Deposit

Balance on January 1st 2010	€43,479
Balance on December 31st 2010	€43,978

#### 7 Equipment

All equipment in the ownership of the Society has been fully depreciated.

### Auditors Report for year ended December 31st 2010

*We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.*

Signed:

*Brendan M. de hÓra EO3GV*

*Brendan Lynch EI6GA*





# Committee Report to the 79th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick. 27th March 2011

## Committee Meetings

Seven Committee meetings were held during the year.

## Membership

We ended the year with 973 members, representing a small drop in numbers over the year.

86 members joined (or re-joined) the society during the year, 40% of these joining as Short Wave Listeners.

The majority of these SWLs are studying for the amateur station licence exam, indeed quite a few of our SWL members obtained their licence during 2010.

## ComReg

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) was established under the Communications Regulation Act, 2002 and is the statutory authority responsible for all licensing functions (other than those relating to Television) under the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1926 and other relevant legislation.

Regular contact is maintained with ComReg by the Society. Meetings are held as necessary to discuss matters concerning amateur radio. Telephone, e-mail and written contacts are used to resolve issues that may arise from time to time and a good working relationship exists between the Society and the Licensing and Frequency Management sections of the Commission.

The following are the main issues that arose with ComReg during the year:

## Theory Examination

In last years report we indicated that consideration was ongoing by ComReg on a substantial submission made by the Society relating to the provision of a more detailed syllabus type document for the Theory Examination.

As a result, a revised syllabus was approved by ComReg in June, 2010, to be effective for examinations held after 1 January 2011.

The objective of the revised syllabus is not in any way to lower the standard of the examination but rather to better reflect the topics to be covered for the examination and to assist candidates and tutors to understand the extent and depth of knowledge required on the various topics. A feature of the revised syllabus is

an extensive 'Notes for Candidates' section on each aspect of the syllabus.

The syllabus and a sample examination paper are available on the IRTS website.

## AREN Net Control Call Signs

Distinctive call signs, which had been the subject of discussion with ComReg, were secured for AREN Net Control stations. The call signs are EIØNC, EIØAC and EIØEC.

## 500 kHz Licence

A detailed report on the stations operating under the Test Licence granted for a year from 4 June 2010 was submitted to ComReg and an application was made for an extension of the licence for a further one year period.

This was granted and ten stations now have permission to operate on the segment 501-504 kHz up to 4 June, 2011 under the terms of the licence.

This initiative is part of the worldwide efforts by the IARU to secure an allocation to the amateur service in the region of 500 kHz at WRC-12.

## Incursions in the 28 MHz Band

Reports were received from the IARU Monitoring Service about broadcasts of Church services in the 28 MHz band. With the assistance of some members, the Churches concerned were identified. In October a report was sent to ComReg and we have received no further reports on the matter

## International Amateur Radio Union

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under the auspices of a representative democracy, the International Amateur Radio Union – IARU.

It is through the work of the IARU that radio amateurs are able to devise agreed objectives and develop a unified strategy to seek to achieve them in the run up to World Radio Conferences of the ITU.

This is how the improvements at 7 MHz, from which we are now benefiting, were achieved at WRC '03 and the hopefully an allocation in the region of 500 kHz will be achieved at WRC-12

A small part of each member's annual subscription goes to help fund the work

of the IARU.

It behoves all who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart to join their National Society and contribute to and support the work of the IARU.

Being a paid up member of your national Society is the only way you can give practical support to the work of the Union and so help to secure the future of amateur radio.

Like any other Union, the IARU works for the good of its members – the radio amateurs of the world

For many years now the Society had maintained a designated fund to allow the IRTS to be represented by two delegates at the three yearly Conferences of Region 1 IARU and a small part of the subscription income of the society is lodged to this fund each year.

It is estimated that the cost of sending two representatives to these Conferences is about a Euro per member per year.

In August, 2011, the next three yearly Conference of Region 1 IARU will be held in Sun City, South Africa.

The Society will be represented at this Conference and is submitting a paper on Remote Controlled Stations.

IARU Region 1 held an exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels for Members of the Parliament from 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

The theme of the exhibition was 'European Amateur Radio Benefiting Society' with a focus on Emergency Communications and Education and Space.

The Society was represented for part of the Exhibition by Séamus McCague EI8BP, Vice President and Seán Nolan EI7CD, IRTS/IARU Liaison.

In early April, 2010, the IARU was represented at a conference in Doha hosted by the Qatar Amateur Radio Society.

This was an important conference in terms of raising the profile of amateur radio and fostering relations between the IARU and the Gulf Cooperation States (GCC)

IARU Societies throughout the world, including IRTS, are seeking the support of their administrations for Item 1.23 on the WRC-12 Agenda which relates to consideration of an amateur worldwide allocation in the region of 500 kHz.

## Theory Examination

Under an agreement concluded with

ComReg in May 2005 and renewed in September 2008 the Society took over responsibility for setting, organising and correcting the theory examination for a licence. This collaborative venture with ComReg has been very successful. Since the last AGM two examinations have been held. In July, 21 candidates sat the examination at centres in Dublin (9), and Limerick (12).

In October, 14 candidates sat the examination in Dublin. Of the 35 candidates, 21 (60%) were successful.

Since IRTS took over responsibility for the Theory Examination six years ago twelve examinations have been held, 234 candidates have sat these examinations and 139 have gained the HAREC qualification a pass rate of 59%.

The next examination will be held in early July next and it is expected that there will be centres in Dublin and elsewhere.

A further examination will be held in early October.

The CD Course Guide is being updated at present largely to align it more closely with the revised syllabus approved by ComReg which comes into effect in January next.

The existing CD which was based on the syllabus in CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02 but was updated to reflect changes to the National Regulations Module necessitated by the new Licensing Regulations that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 is still available.

This version also includes a very useful document 'Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination' which is also available on the downloads section of the website.

### Radio News

The HF Radio News is running well at present. The 1200 Sunday news is rotating between Ger EI4GXB in Clonlara, Co. Clare, Roland EI4GYB in Carlow and Seán EI7CD in Dublin.

Colm EI3H, who had for so many years provided the Sunday 40 metre news service died on 1st August, 2010.

This service is being provided for the present by Seán EI7CD

The News is also broadcast by clubs on VHF from various locations throughout the country mainly on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Charlie Carolan EI8JB had to retire as Radio News Editor due to work commitments. We thank Charlie for the effort he put into producing interesting news bulletins week in week out.

We welcome Aidan Noone EI7JC who

has taken over as Radio News Editor and who is continuing to produce interesting and informative news scripts.

Finally we pay tribute to the dedication and commitment of the many newsreaders who give of their time to bring us the Radio News Service throughout the year.

### Awards

The society is called on each year to validate a small number of applications by members for awards granted by other IARU Societies.

Interest in the Society's Worked EI Counties Award (WEIC) seems to have fallen off.

This is perhaps partly due to poor propagation on 40 metres. We had expected more awards to be issued as it became easier due to the now twice yearly 80 metre Counties Contest and the fact that it was decided two years ago that QSL cards would no longer be required.

The award is now issued on the basis of a log extract certified by an officer of a radio club or by two licensed radio amateurs.

This fact and the award generally need to get more publicity to try to stimulate interest

The Society's trophies, which are awarded for contests, construction as well as for services to the Society or to Amateur Radio, will be presented in the course of the AGM.

### PRO

#### Friedrichshafen

Once again the Society had a stand at the HamRadio show in Friedrichshafen in June 2010.

Thanks are due to all EIs and GIs who contributed some of their time at the show in order to man the stand and to Fáilte Ireland who provided literature. The stand had a series of posters on the theme of "Decoding the Code – from Samuel Morse to SMS" showcasing the Society's participation in the Engineers Ireland Week of Wonder.

A series of posters tracing developments at ITU World Radio Communications Conferences (WRC) and their impact on spectrum for the Amateur Service on the VHF/UHF bands were provided by John EI7BV, based on a talk given by him at South Dublin Radio Club.

#### Week of Wonder 2011

The Society once again participated in Week of Wonder in February 2011.

This time there were centres in Cork,

Limerick, Athlone, Cavan, Dundalk and Blanchardstown.

Thanks to all who helped.

### IRTS Bookshop

RSGB have agreed to give a 10% discount to IRTS members on items from their bookshop.

A promotion code will be required and it is envisaged that this will be changed annually. The new shop will be available after the AGM 2011.

### Web Editor

I continue to update the information on the site as it is supplied. Thanks are due to Joe EI7GY who refreshed the design of the site pending a full re-design.

### Emergency Communications

ARENs year began in late January.

Irish Mountain Rescue were hosting their AGM in Tramore, County Waterford.

Simultaneously, there was a Winter Walking festival taking place in the Glen of Aherlow.

AREN established both a VHF/UHF link between Tramore and the Glen of Aherlow, while simultaneously having HF communications between both locations and APRS available.

Next up was a walking Marathon in March. This took place on the ridge North of the Galtees, all activity took place on VHF and UHF for this event. This was quickly followed by the Galway Head of the River race, where support was given to the Civil Defence and Order of Malta.

May returned to Galway, where AREN members once again were out supporting Civil Defence for the Croi Cycle Race.

June saw activity again in the Galtee Mountains and on the water in Galway. In Tipperary, a recently purchased Micro-Trak-AIO APRS transmitter which was used over the weekend and proved very useful for tracking the progress of the walk over the duration of the weekend, this was a useful addition to Voice communications and helped reduce the amount of voice traffic.

In Galway members were out in bad weather to assist at the Galway regatta, some prospective members were shown the ropes on the day, and its hopeful they will participate in future events.

July brought AREN to the Comeragh

*(Continued on page 20)*



(Continued from page 18)

Mountains in Waterford for the Annual Comeragh Challenge. Members manned several checkpoints on the hills and in some valleys. Fortunately the weather was good on the day which meant the event went off smoothly. The following day, members were out assisting at the Castlebar International 4 Day walking festival. There were no emergency calls during the course of the 4 day festival.

August began with the Galway Walking Club Marathon, as this event takes place in areas with little or no mobile phone coverage, AREN operators were very busy on this event passing traffic.

Next up was the Burren Walk where AREN operators and good communications between checkpoints are pivotal to the success of the event. Finally AREN operators in Waterford were out assisting the Waterford County Civil Defence in the Sean Kelly Tour. APRS proved very useful in keeping track of the tail of each of the three separate courses that were active simultaneously. It helped enormously with the logistical challenge of where to position and send Ambulances on the day.

In both October and November, as an exercise, a Net was established in response to the Severe weather that was being. It proved an interesting exercise to conduct as neither NET was pre-planned in any fashion, and it demonstrated the utility of the Southern Ireland Repeater Network.

Also, in the aftermath of the devastating floods in Pakistan, Conor O'Neill organised both a collection and shipment of donated radio equipment to Pakistan to assist with communications. This equipment is still in use and was very much appreciated.

Finally, in November, 11 members gave up their weekend to participate in a training weekend in Dromineer. Several topics were covered on Saturday. The proceedings were broken during the day by a tour of the local RNLI station by the station master. Sunday morning entailed an outdoor practical session covering all aspects of operations, from planning an operation through to deployment, execution and finally closing down the operation.

Initial feedback was that the event was interesting, everyone learned something and would be keen to participate in a future event next year.

Throughout 2010, approximately 1100 hours were directly spent by members on AREN activities. This does not include the time spent preparing for events or indeed training.

Many thanks to all members for donating their time and expertise in public service.

### EMC Report

In the last year a number of individual members have made contact with the EMC officer with regard to interference to reception at HF and VHF. In all cases advice was given on how to locate the source and some suggestions were made based on probable causes how the issues might be addressed.

I would appeal to the members to report back on how their EMC issues were resolved, we can all learn from the outcomes of others.

There may also be the need to involve the regulatory authorities under certain circumstances, particularly where the noise is emanating from non-CE marked equipment placed on sale within the EU or excessive noise levels are observed from CE marked equipment whilst it is being operated in accordance with its intended purpose.

Devices placed on sale within the EU or imported into the EU must conform to the EMC directive (Directive 2004/108/EC) which has been transposed into Irish law. Even where a device is shown to be compliant with all applicable standards the EMC directive requires that the supplier or importer of a device has to take action should a device cause undue interference to radio users.

As radio amateurs we have the same entitlements to protection as any other licensed radio user or service.

There is ongoing work at the IARU Region 1 level in relation to a potential standard that is being drafted by CENELC for Powerline Telecommunications Devices.

The IRTS is working with the IARU on this matter.

The EMC officer would particularly like to hear from members who are currently experiencing interference from PLT devices.

### International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring Service

Ger McNamara EI4GXB continues to represent the society on the IARU Monitoring System. During the year illegal church broadcasts on the 10m band have been identified and reported to ComReg for investigation. The relationship with ComReg continues to be of a very high standard.

### QSL Service

In these days of electronics for all aspects of ham radio, even an electronic QSL card, it is nice to see so many paper QSL cards going through both the incoming and outgoing bureau.

It is noticed that a lot of people use the modern modes, but at least we still use the old forms of communications of Talking and Morse code.

The inward QSL bureau is ran by a small and dedicated group of individuals from all over the country.

The sub managers who get a regular supply of QSL card from the post box via Michael EI2CL, who is first to sort out the raw cards that arrive, and they are then sorted into the various numbers and bagged.

Pat, EI2HX picks them a couple of days before the regular I.R.T.S. committee meetings and then would distribute them to the sub-managers present at the meeting, the sub managers that are unable to attend the meeting are sent their batch of QSL cards in the post days after the meeting.

When they get the cards they are sorted and sent to the members.

Members are asked to let their previous sub manager know if they have changed their callsign so we can send you your cards from your old callsign.

I would like to thank the dedicated crew of sub managers again for giving up their time in doing this very important task in one of the I.R.T.S.'s most important jobs, to give you your QSL cards.

The details of your QSL sub manager are as always found on page 2 of Echo Ireland.

### Publications

Six issues of Echo Ireland were produced and the new colour pages have been warmly welcomed.

Many thanks to editor Dave Moore EI4BZ, for the extremely hard work he puts in to ensure Echo Ireland is produced to a very high standard. ■

## South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

A new committee was elected at the Annual General Meeting of South Eastern Amateur Radio Group on 28th February in Waterford.

The incoming committee for 2011 is as follows:

Chairperson: John McCarthy EI8JA  
V/Chairperson: Francis Lenane EI5GOB  
Secretary: John Ronan EI7IG  
Treasurer: Mark Wall EI7IS  
PRO: Declan Fitzgerald EI5GRB  
Officers are: Mick Hoban EI5DCB,  
Egidio Giani EI9EQ  
David Ginda EI6GVB.

The club would like to thank the outgoing committee for all their work over the past year.

Meetings take place in Roanmore Social and Sports Centre, Cleaboy Road, Waterford at 8.30 p.m. on the last Monday of each month.

The IRTS radio news is transmitted at 9.30 p.m. (local time) every Tuesday via the Southern Ireland Repeater Network. Reports are welcome via the call-in directly after the news broadcast and SWL reports can be e-mailed to [repeaters@searg.com](mailto:repeaters@searg.com).

## New 2m Repeater (EI2CCR) at Dundalk Amateur Radio Society

An upgraded 2m repeater has been installed at the RTE site at Clermont Cairn, north of Dundalk.

The new installation consists of a Phillips FX5000 base station and a G1SLE repeater logic.

As a result of the upgrade, licensed users need to ensure they use the following:

1. Narrow band 12.5kHz Tx deviation selected.
2. CTCSS encode set to 110.9Hz or 1750Hz tone burst used to open EI2CCR.

When you access EI2CCR you will hear a your signal report in Morse-S trong(...),

I ntermediate (..),

W eak (.-)

this will be followed by 8 pips.

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society is most grateful to Richard, MI3CQR, for technical expertise and generosity in the installation of the new upgrade.

More comprehensive details can be obtained by access to [www.ei7dar.com](http://www.ei7dar.com)

## Introduction to Amateur Radio the Practical Way Mayo Radio Experimenters Network Open Days

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network plan on holding a series of practical hands on open days throughout the summer months, commencing Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The events will start at 1300 approx (weather permitting) and will take place on the following dates:

Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>

Anyone with an interest in radio related matters, who would like to have the opportunity to participate or observe the operation of an amateur radio station, or meet club members, will receive a warm welcome.

Whatever you're level of interest, the club will be pleased to help in taking your interest further, be it a complete novice, shortwave listener or formal assistance in progressing to a full amateur radio licence.

The locations will be chosen in the Mid Mayo area in order to encourage attendance from all parts of the County or further afield.

If you would like further details including full details of locations please contact:

Padraic Baynes EI9JA on 0876957154 (email [pbaynes1@eircom.net](mailto:pbaynes1@eircom.net)), email David Hatfield EI3ECB on [ei3ecb@gmail.com](mailto:ei3ecb@gmail.com) or text or phone the club mobile phone number 086 20 89 777



In the photo and seated on the left is Austin Grogan EI3HS, the President of the Skerries radio club EI2NCR with some club members standing behind, who congratulated their fellow member, Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX (seated on right) on been awarded two prestigious Shields for construction at the recent I.R.T.S. AGM in Limerick. Pat was awarded the trophy's for building a couple of 1.2 GHz projects for ATV, his on going extracts from the HX Files can be found elsewhere in this issue of Echo Ireland.

In the back row are, Derek EI7CHB, Bill EI 1488, Michael EI 1548, Ben EI4IN, Jeff EI6CW, John SWL and John EI8BX.



**The Daily DX** - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via e-mail to your home or office Monday through Friday and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 months.

Get a free two weeks of The Daily DX or a free sample of The Weekly DX by sending a request to [bernie@dailydx.com](mailto:bernie@dailydx.com).





## Excerpt from the HX files

### A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 015

Hello and welcome to x-tract 15 from the HX-Files.

#### Firstly:-

I was delighted to meet and thank the few brave people who came up to me at both the Coolmine rally and at the I.R.T.S. AGM in Limerick and freely admitted that they read and enjoyed the HX-Files, so to them again I say thank you.

Secondly, I was delighted to be awarded two excellent trophies for construction, the M. E. Folan Shield (EI6E), and the Kevin Freeney Shield (EI9BMB) at the IRTS AGM in Limerick on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

I was, like some of you dear readers a bit reluctant to submit anything but after a bit of prompting I decided to enter a couple of items and was delighted to be awarded the shields, so I say to you, don't be shy. Your friends will tell you what they think of it, as you can be your own worst judge on your own work, so go on and submit your construction project for the AGM in 2012. You never know what may happen and don't forget that the magic word in constructing your project is "prototype", so it does not have to be ready for mass production, but it has to be safe and tidy, and most importantly it has to do what it says on the tin, so see you at the awards table at the IRTS AGM next year.

#### Next project for/m or /p.

I decided to build a new mast for mobile/portable setup this year. This one would be used mainly for the short sessions when I was only going to setup a station for a couple of hours and as I have a couple of portable masts, a 10m and a 8m one that has yet to see the light of day (and no it is not for sale) that would be used for some of the longer outings and for bigger aerals.

I have often been told that you don't need a huge mast if you are going portable on top of a mountain, so with that in mind this setup would not be a big mast but a small and handy one, if I can use the term "mast" describing an 8 foott setup, (that's 2.44m in new money).

This project would involve the mast mounted onto a bracket and this in turn would be attached onto the tow bar of the car. I did see some types of hardware that could be modified and used for what I needed, but as with most things you need for a mobile or portable station you can never get the finished part you need and

you would have to adapt and even destroy a brand new item by cutting and welding it to get it to do what you want it to do. So after a talk with Kevin EI5JG, we decided that he would make what I needed from scratch.

After trying various sizes of pipe both round and square we ended up with the idea of using a piece of channel iron (or a U bar as some call it) and a piece of metal plate. Before the metal plate was welded to the U piece, a 25mm hole was drilled in it, a 15mm hole was drilled in the U piece and a nut welded over the drilled hole. Then a piece of round bar was welded onto the matching bolt giving it a T bar look, and this in turn would act as a permanently attached spanner, a 30cm length of tubing will be used for giving it an extra bit of tension.

The reason for the 25mm hole was, as the bolt is been tightened on the other side of the box the ball of the tow bar would be pushed partially into the hole and this would act as extra friction and help with stability.

Part of the original bracket on the bottom of the mast was welded to the box and re attached to the mast by its original screws and some large rivets. The top of the mast has some sort of clip on it, this was removed by undoing its retaining screws and a copy of the top was made as this would be used to make a small stub mast that would be attached to an aerial and some matching holes drilled in to line up with the mast top, so it could be attached to the top of the mast.



The original top will be placed in the stores shed along with the remaining part of the bottom piece (never to be seen again no doubt). If my car was parked on uneven ground the mast could be tilted vertically by undoing the bolt with one hand and holding onto the mast with the other hand. I would use a small spirit level to give me the vertical line and if needed I could also use the roof rack on the car and its end clamps to tie some rope to act as stays if the weather conditions were to get a bit windy.

I made up a little kit bag to keep with the mast, a disc (on the mast) that goes over the top of the mast and comes to rest at the half way point of the mast and the stays could be attached to that, 2 small pegs, some stay rope, and a persuader. In the pictures you can see the finished mast with the 35el beam for 23cms on the top and under it a 10GHz setup that includes the dish and a 50mw transmitter housed in the box bolted onto it.

I hope by the time you read this that the new setup has done a few trials and it may have had some tweaks carried out on it, this seems to be par for the course for home builders.

That's all for now, see you all next time and may all your reports be P5.  
73's Pat.

# My First Field Day with the North Cork Radio Group

By Lisa Collins, EI9GSB



I became part of the North Cork Radio Group in 2010 and then went on to become the Secretary of the Group. Through my involvement with them, and their help, I developed my interest in amateur radio and went on to take, and pass, the exam in October. I was granted my licence on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The Group recently arranged a CASHOTA activation for Blackrock Castle, as part of Engineers Week, with the reference EI009C on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February.

The castle is a 16<sup>th</sup> century castle on the banks of the River Lee built by Elizabeth I as a result of a demand by the people of the city to protect them against pirates.

I was looking forward to this event, as this would be my first field day with the Group, as well as being the first activation of the castle. A lot of the members had taken part in previous events so they knew what it involved. I was a bit nervous also as I had only ever operated the radio at home and I didn't know what to expect, would I be able to operate under field day conditions and if I could cope with the demand for the CASHOTA log?

We arrived at the Castle on the 19<sup>th</sup> about 1000 and started to set up the station. We had a long wire strapped to a 9 foot fishing pole and a portable vertical antenna suitable for the 20m band. We soon discovered that there was a major amount of interference from the technology in the Castle and we had to battle this throughout the day due to the fact that we were literally next to it.

Despite this, the atmosphere was good and we set about trying to make contacts for our log, which we had great fun in doing. I kicked off the event about 1120 and my nerves remained for a few minutes, then disappeared as I got into it and all members operated the station throughout the day.

We also had some interest from members of the public who stopped by to see what we were doing and what amateur radio entailed, and some even to take part in a quick QSO.

The activation finished about 1700.

On the second day, 20<sup>th</sup> February, we arrived at approximately

the same time, but the Group decided that an EZ-wire placed over the Castle entrance arch and into the trees on the opposite side may reduce the static and interference we were experiencing.

This did seem to do the trick but again, once the Castle technology was turned on, the interference continued, although not at as high rate as the day before. We operated again on 20m, 17m and 40m and managed to get 128 contacts over the weekend, contacting the following countries:- OE, EA6, ON, VE, 9A, OK, OZ, G, ES, UA3, DL, OH, F, SV, HA, EI, I, GI, LA, SP, GM, OM, S5, EA, SM, HB9, UR, W, GW.

We ended the activation on a high note, with a final push for contacts, and the demand to speak with us was good but unfortunately the event had to end and we made our final contact at approximately 1717 with a French station.

We had some photos taken outside Blackrock Castle and also

of the members there on both days.

I was a bit disappointed when the event finished as I had so much fun over the weekend and am now looking forward to our next field day at Cork City Gaol on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March. I'll be there with my log in hand!!

Lisa, EI9GSB



Lisa EI9GSB and Pat EI2GHB



Claus EI7JZ



Jordan SWL, Tony EI3GAB and Lisa EI9GSB





# Contest Corner

by IRTS Contest Manager Thos Caffrey EI2JD

## EI Records - CQWW WPX CW

CW (1979 - 2010)

Category	Call	Year	Score	Mult
Multi-Operator				
Multi-Multi	no entry			
Multi-Two	EI7M	2006	14,168,448	1,152
Multi-Single	EI2JD	2009	1,918,620	594
Single Operator - High Power				
High All	EI4DW	1988	700,864	376
High 10m	no entry			
High 15m	EI1DH	1980	264,320	224
High 20m	EI2CN	2010	1,678,172	667
High 40m	EI7CC	1982	12,688	61
High 80m	no entry			
High 160m	no entry			
Single Operator - Low Power				
Low All	EI4DW	2001	1,152,388	514
Low 10m	EI7CC	2008	26,680	145
Low 15m	EI8GP	1999	560,920	370
Low 20m	EI8GP	1997	312,336	324
Low 40m	EI4HQ	2007	150,136	196
Low 80m	EI4CF	2004	80,640	168
Low 160m	no entry			
Single Operator - QRP				
QRP All	EI8FH	2010	1,947	33
QRP 10m, 15m, 20, 40m, 80m, 160m - no entries				
Single Operator Assisted - High				
High All	EI/AB2E	2005	2,068,860	615
High 10m, 15m, 20, 40m, 80m, 160m - no entries				
Single Operator Assisted - Low				
Low All	EI/W5GN	2010	555,984	396
Low 10m, 15m	no entries			
Low 20m	EI6DX	2010	3,510	54
Low 40m, 40m, 160m - no entries				

## EI Results in CQWW WPX CW 2010

<b>Unassisted</b>				
<b>High Power</b>	Band	Score	QSO's	Mults
EI2CN	14	1,678,172	1517	667
<b>Low Power</b>				
EI4HQ	A	144,595	341	239
EI4II	A	79,002	285	189
EI7CC	A	19,716	132	106
EI8JX	14	55,848	209	179
<b>Assisted</b>				
<b>High Power</b>				
EI2JD	A	656,908	723	406
<b>Low Power</b>				
EI/W5GN	A	555,984	725	396
EI2JK	A	162,250	390	295
EI6DX	14	3,510	57	54
<b>QRP</b>				
EI8FH	A	1,947	33	33



The CQWW WPX CW Contest is always held over the last full weekend in May. Congratulations to all who participated last year and especially to Doug EI2CN, Malcolm EI8FH, Barry EI/W5GN and Stan EI6DX who all set new EI Records. Note that there are many band slots with no entries so there's your chance to get listed!

After the CW WPX, the next big one is the RSGB Islands on the Air Contest, always very popular with EI operators. This will be held on July 30/31st. Now is the time to be making plans. There has been a reduction in the number of EJ stations over the past few years so maybe this year, with improved HF conditions, a few more might be tempted to plan an offshore trip!

Don't forget our IRTS Contests:- CW FD on June 4/5th, 80m Counties on June 19th, VHF FD on July 2/3rd, 2m Counties on August 28th and SSB FD on September 3/4th.

73 de Thos EI2JD

# Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

## May 2011

7-8	Sat 0001 - Sun 2359	10-10 Int. Spring Contest	CW
7-8	Sat 1200 - Sun 1159	CQ-M International DX Contest	CW/SSB
7-8	Sat 2000 - Sun 1959	ARI (Italy) I'national DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
14-15	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	VOLTA WW RTTY Contest	RTTY
21-22	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	EU PSK DX Contest	BPSK63
21-22	Sat 1200 - Sun 26	His Maj. King of Spain Contest	CW
28-29	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	CQ WW WPX Contest	

## June 2011

4-5	Sat 1500 - Sun 1500	Region 1 CW Field Day	CW
4-5	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	SEANET Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
11	Sat 0000 - 2400	Portugal Day Contest	CW/SSB
18-19	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest	CW
25-26	Sat 1200 - Sun 26	His Maj. King of Spain Contest	SSB
25-26	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Marconi Memorial Contest	CW

## July 2011

1	Sat 0000 - Sat 2359	RAC Canada Day Contest	CW/SSB
2-3	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB/FM
2-3	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	CW/SSB
2-3	Sat 1100 - Sun 1059	DL-DX RTTY Contest	RTTY/PSK31/PSK63
9-10	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IARU HF World Championship	CW/SSB
16-17	Sat 1800 - Sun 2100	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	Any
30-31	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW/SSB



## Luxembourg 5 MHz Beacon

A new 60 metre beacon is operational from Luxembourg.

The call sign is LXØHF and the frequency is 5205.25 kHz.

## 2010 IARU HF World Championships EI Results

#	Call	Score	QSOs	Mult	Class
1	EI0HQ	1,884,056	2,852	214	HQ Station
2	EI4II	350,592	684	176	HP M/S
3	EI6IZ	254,198	559	134	LP SO CW
4	EI8JX	66,120	260	76	LP SO CW
5	EI7JK	23,205	135	65	LP SO MIX
6	EI7GY	21,462	118	73	LP SO CW
7	EI4DJB	16,500	106	66	LP SO Phone
8	EI4GAB	7,038	67	46	LP SO Phone

## IRTS Contests

CW Field Day June 4/5th

80m Counties June 19th

VHF/UHF Field Day July 2/3rd

SSB Field Day September 3/4th

2m Counties August 28th

Full rules on [www.irts.ie](http://www.irts.ie)

## Theory Examination

The next theory examination for the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) will be held on

**Thursday, 7 July next**

at 2.00 p.m. in the ComReg offices in Dublin.

The examination may also be held on that day at other centres if warranted by the number of candidates.

Full details, including entry procedure and examination fee, are available at [www.irts.ie/exam](http://www.irts.ie/exam)

The closing date for applicants is  
**Wednesday June 22nd**



Dundalk Amateur Radio Society members with the impressive collection of trophies presented to the club and individual members at the recent IRTS AGM in Limerick.

Tony EI4DIB, Mark EI9FX, Michael EI1581, Kieran EI9DA, Michael EI5GG, Aidan EI7JC, Jim 2I0SBI, Thos EI2JD, Tom EI9CJ, Brian EI9GTB, Pat EI2HX, Ivan EI 1166, Richard MI3CQR, Michael SWL, Peter EI4HX.





Any EI or GI Castles also count towards the CASHOTA UK awards which requires 50 Castles.

International Castles weekend will be held from 0600 on Saturday the 21st of May and ending at 0400 on Monday the 23rd of May.

International Castles Weekend is a worldwide event of historical site activation in which any amateur may participate either by activating or contacting stations. Later in the year the International World Castles Award Program will be holding their activity weekend which is traditionally held in June.

The Certificate for this program of awards may be obtained by working 50 castles anywhere in the world and there are also Awards for working greater numbers following the initial award for 50.

To obtain "World Castles Activator Award - WCAA" one has to make not less than 50 QSOs from each of 5 various objects qualifying for WCA. It should be noted that Stately homes, if not actual Castles will not be eligible for this award.

Again EI and GI castles count towards this award.

For further information on the World Castles award check this link <http://www.wcagroup.org/ENG/main.html> for all of the information plus links to each country participating.

The awards are really worth working towards and generally it is possible to end up with a nice collection of QSL cards from each of the locations.

## North Cork Radio Group CASHOTA Activation

North Cork Radio Group would like to advise of another premium upcoming event for CASHOTA/WAI hunters.

EIINC/P this time will activate Blarney Castle, Co Cork on June 4th 5th & 6th.

The event is being run in conjunction with Cashota Ireland and the awards designator will be EI010/C.

Further details on the CASHOTA Awards program can be obtained via <http://cashota-ireland.org>. further upcoming events will be advised through IRTS News service and at the Groups Home page [www.ei1nc.com](http://www.ei1nc.com)

## IRTS News Feeds

RSS news feeds are rapidly becoming the way to publish information in a timely fashion without pushing emails and cluttering inboxes.

The user initially downloads an RSS reader and subscribe to the feed by going to the relevant feed site.

Jim EI4HH has introduced a service on a trial basis for IRTS members which will publish brief details of items such as AGM and Rally details, IRTS News and contest dates.

This is not intended to be a high through-put information service but rather an intermittent service which would keep active operators up to date with frequent snippets of relevant information.

Members should click the RSS button on the IRTS website or go to <http://www.irts.ie/rss> to sign up and see the feed.

Further information from Jim EI4HH at [holohaj2@hotmail.com](mailto:holohaj2@hotmail.com)

## Russia to Adopt CEPT Licence

The Russian State Commission for Radio Frequencies decided recently to adopt CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-01. This is the recommendation that sets out the arrangements for the CEPT licensing system.

This step will increase further the facilities for radio amateurs to operate while on a short visit to another country without the necessity of obtaining a licence from the authorities of the country being visited.



DXers at the IRTS AGM Dinner in Limerick:  
Jeremy EI5GM, Melvyn MI0MSR, Dave EI9FBB, Peter EI7CC



# Cork Radio Club

Photos by Denis EI6HB



From the West  
Karl SWL; Hans EI9GRB, Declan EI9GA, John EI6CE



Jeremy EI5GM, Chairman:



Cormac EI4HQ



From the East  
Jim EI8GG; Denis EI9GAB, Jim EI8GS



Jerry EI6BT:



Aedan EI3EG; Frank EI6EVB



Dick EI6HH, Treasurer: Jack EI7FD, John EI3EC



Jack EI7HO:



Don EI8DJ;



Neil EI3JE



DXers  
John EI7BA; Denis EI5GSB, Dave EI9FBB



Jim, EI3JN



Claus EI7JZ



Ingo DH5ST

Cork Radio Club has been meeting weekly in Blackpool on the North side of Cork City for many years. Unfortunately, the premises used is no longer available to the club and following discussions at the recent annual general meeting, the club will now meet once a month with additional meetings as required.

The first of the monthly meetings was held on Monday March 28th at the Community Centre in Carrigtwohill. An attendance of over forty amateurs and SWLs discussed the programme for the year ahead. This will include all IRTS field days and several special event stations. Classes will commence during the second week of October and anyone interested in attending should contact the club as occasional preparatory nights will be held during the next few months. The first field event will be for International Marconi Day on April 30th when the callsign EI5IMD will be used again at the original Marconi site at Brow Head in Crookhaven in West Cork. This year marks the 110th anniversary of Marconi's operation from Brow Head when the reception of strong signals from Poldhu in Cornwall convinced Marconi that it was possible to span the Atlantic with radio signals.

Officers elected at the recent AGM were: Chairman Jeremy EI5GM, Secretary Dave EI4BZ and Treasurer Dick EI6HH. Enquiries about the club to Jeremy on 083-3317710 or Dave on 087-6290574 or by email to [info@corkradioclub.com](mailto:info@corkradioclub.com).



# EI's on EQSL (as at April 6th 2011)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscaffrey@hotmail.com

<b>DXCC Confirmed</b>	54	EI8BLB	26	EI6AL
228 <b>EI7BA (+4)</b>	52	EI4GMB	26	EI9JM
183 <b>EI9FBB (+5)</b>	52	<b>EI6GGB (+2)</b>	18	<b>EI6IL (New)</b>
177 <b>EI4CF (+6)</b>	52	EI8H		
174 <b>EI3IO</b>	50	EI6AK		<b>Worked All Zones</b>
172 <b>EI7CC (+8)</b>	50	<b>EI8JW (+3)</b>	40	EI0CZ
171 <b>EI2JD (+1)</b>	49	EI1429	40	EI4CF
163 <b>EI0CZ (+5)</b>	49	EI2FSB	40	EI7BA
153 <b>EI9O (+6)</b>	49	<b>EI3GAB (+10)</b>	40	<b>EI7JN (+18)</b>
148 <b>EI9HX</b>	46	EI/DK2AT	40	EI9FBB
147 <b>EI6IZ</b>	45	<b>EI1NC/P (+23)</b>	40	<b>EI9O (+1)</b>
140 <b>EI7JN (+24)</b>	43	EI7IS	39	EI2JD
132 <b>EI8GS</b>	43	<b>EI9GSB (+6)</b>	39	EI3IO
130 <b>EI9JU</b>	43	EI9KC	39	EI8GS
125 <b>EI1DG (+1)</b>	42	EI4DIB	39	EI9HX
121 <b>EI9FVB</b>	42	EI5IX	39	EI9JU
117 <b>EI6AL (+1)</b>	41	EI3EBB	38	<b>EI7JZ (+1)</b>
117 <b>EI6HB</b>	41	EI4IR	37	<b>EI1DG (+1)</b>
	39	EI0CPL	36	<b>EI2KC (+10)</b>
115 <b>EI3GYB</b>	39	EI1KARG	34	EI3GYB
	39	EI6IF	34	EI5IF
109 <b>EI5IF</b>	38	<b>EI3KE (New)</b>	33	EI5GM
109 <b>EI7JK (+1)</b>	37	EI7GM	33	EI7CC
109 <b>EI8FH (+2)</b>	36	<b>EI4KE (New)</b>	32	<b>EI0W (+1)</b>
107 <b>EI0W (+2)</b>	36	<b>EI5HV (+2)</b>	32	EI4BZ
107 <b>EI4BZ (+6)</b>	35	EI1571	32	EI4GNB
106 <b>EI2KC (+10)</b>	32	EI90GPO	32	EI6AL
105 <b>EI7DAR</b>	31	<b>EI5DD (New)</b>	32	<b>EI8FH (+1)</b>
105 <b>EI8IU</b>	30	EI7CHB	32	EI9FVB
104 <b>EI4GXB</b>	28	EI4IN	31	EI6JK
103 <b>EI5GM</b>	28	EI5GB	30	EI5GJB
102 <b>EI6JK</b>	27	EI3GDB	30	EI4GXB
	26	EI7IW	29	<b>EI6IL (New)</b>
102 <b>EI9HQ</b>	25	<b>EI1509 (New)</b>	28	EI4GMB
101 <b>EI2GLB (+14)</b>	25	EI2FS	25	EI2GLB
96 <b>EI3HA (+2)</b>	25	<b>EI3FFB (+1)</b>	15	EI8JB
94 <b>EI4GNB (+1)</b>	24	EI/G4DDL	13	EI4DIB
90 <b>EI5GJB</b>	24	EI8GNB	11	<b>EI3KE (New)</b>
87 <b>EI4HQ</b>	22	<b>EI7GZB (New)</b>		
86 <b>EI2II (+4)</b>	21	<b>EI8GGB (+1)</b>		<b>Worked Prefixes</b>
86 <b>EI4HH</b>	20	EI2IV	1,383	<b>EI4CF (+46)</b>
86 <b>EI8IQ (+5)</b>			1,159	<b>EI2JD (+28)</b>
86 <b>EI9ES</b>		<b>Worked All States</b>	1,036	<b>EI7CC (+21)</b>
85 <b>EI5GUB (+1)</b>	50	EI4CF	1,027	<b>EI9FBB (+29)</b>
85 <b>EI6IL (+27)</b>	50	EI8GS	984	<b>EI0W (+39)</b>
83 <b>EI7IX</b>	50	EI9FBB	983	<b>EI6JK (+13)</b>
82 <b>EI7JZ (+6)</b>	50	EI9FBB	957	EI8GS
76 <b>EI8JR</b>	50	EI9HX	893	<b>EI0CZ (+12)</b>
74 <b>EI8DL</b>	50	EI9JU	886	EI9JU
71 <b>EI3IS</b>	50	EI9O	862	<b>EI9HQ (+2)</b>
71 <b>EI8HL</b>	49	EI2JD	841	<b>EI7JN (+628)</b>
71 <b>EI9CF</b>	49	<b>EI7JN (+2)</b>	829	EI3IO
69 <b>EI8GP</b>	49	EI9HQ	775	<b>EI7BA (+26)</b>
68 <b>EI/DH0GSU/p</b>	49	EI9HQ	762	<b>EI4GXB (+10)</b>
68 <b>EI8JB</b>	48	EI6HB	657	<b>EI7JK (+11)</b>
67 <b>EI7BFB</b>	47	EI3IO	636	<b>EI4BZ (+9)</b>
66 <b>EI7GSB (+3)</b>	46	<b>EI0W (+3)</b>	630	<b>EI9FVB (+9)</b>
66 <b>EI7IM</b>	46	<b>EI1DG (New)</b>	606	<b>EI1DG (+55)</b>
66 <b>EI9EW (+5)</b>	45	EI0CZ	532	<b>EI5GM (+6)</b>
65 <b>EI7M</b>	45	EI4BZ	532	<b>EI5IF (+11)</b>
65 <b>EI8DD</b>	45	EI4IS	525	<b>EI9O (+18)</b>
64 <b>EI9FV</b>	45	EI5GM	504	<b>EI8FH (+38)</b>
63 <b>EI5EV (+3)</b>	45	EI7BA	498	<b>EI2KC (+33)</b>
62 <b>EI5GSB</b>	45	EI8GP	497	<b>EI4GNB (+4)</b>
62 <b>EI3JB</b>	41	EI4GNB	458	<b>EI2GLB (+221)</b>
61 <b>EI4IS</b>	41	EI5IF	454	<b>EI2II (New)</b>
61 <b>EI9JM</b>	40	EI4GXB	426	<b>EI5GJB (+38)</b>
60 <b>EI6ARB</b>	40	EI7CC	412	<b>EI8JB (+13)</b>
58 <b>EI9JF</b>	40	EI9HW	410	<b>EI9JM (+5)</b>
57 <b>EI8JK</b>	36	EI2KC	397	EI8IU
56 <b>EI7BMB</b>	32	EI6JK	385	<b>EI8GP (+1)</b>
55 <b>EI5HE</b>	31	EI4GMB	373	<b>EI7GSB (+37)</b>
55 <b>EI6CPB</b>	30	EI9ES	356	<b>EI3HA (+11)</b>
54 <b>EI7IQ</b>	29	EI9FVB	295	<b>EI7JZ (New)</b>

# EI DXCC Listings (April 14th 2011)

<b>DXCC Challenge</b>	284	EI9FBB	135	<b>EI4BZ (+5)</b>
2,422 <b>EI7BA (+27)</b>	264	EI4GK	117	EI7GL
1,914 <b>EI9FBB</b>	249	EI8GS	105	<b>EI9E (+5)</b>
1,798 <b>EI3IO</b>	242	EI2JD		
1,569 <b>EI7CC</b>	230	<b>EI9HX (+125)</b>	30m	
1,522 <b>EI6FR (+53)</b>	226	EI9FVB	279	<b>EI7BA (+6)</b>
1,173 <b>EI6IZ</b>	225	EI9JF	218	EI3IO
1,135 <b>EI2JD</b>	213	EI7GL	201	EI9FBB
1,018 <b>EI9JF</b>	200	EI6IL	167	EI9JF
	188	EI2CH	166	<b>EI6FR (+12)</b>
<b>DXCC Honor Roll</b>	186	EI7II	160	EI6IZ
	185	<b>EI4BZ (+16)</b>	116	<b>EI4BZ (+6)</b>
<b>Mixed</b>	177	EI9FE		
340 <b>EI6FR/345</b>	162	EI4HH	20m	
334 <b>EI7BA/338</b>	162	<b>EI9E (+11)</b>	321	<b>EI7BA (+1)</b>
333 <b>EI2GS/340</b>	153	EI8IU	306	<b>EI6FR (+6)</b>
333 <b>EI6S/351</b>	142	EI6HB	280	EI9FBB
333 <b>EI7CC/347</b>	129	EI9HQ	247	EI3IO
	114	EI4EX	217	EI9JF
<b>Phone</b>	105	EI1CS	193	EI2JD
332 <b>EI6S/348</b>	101	EI3IP	184	<b>EI4BZ (+12)</b>
332 <b>EI8EM/339</b>	100	<b>EI2GLB (New)</b>	177	EI8GS
331 <b>EI2GS/338</b>			174	<b>EI6IZ (+9)</b>
331 <b>EI7CC/345</b>			161	EI9FVB
			134	EI6HB
<b>Mixed</b>	<b>CW</b>		131	<b>EI9E (+23)</b>
356 <b>EI8H</b>	324	<b>EI7BA (+1)</b>	115	EI3GV
351 <b>EI6S</b>	316	EI7CC	105	EI9HQ
347 <b>EI7CC</b>	288	<b>EI6FR (+7)</b>		
345 <b>EI6FR</b>	267	EI9FBB	17m	
340 <b>EI2GS</b>	253	EI9JF	308	<b>EI7BA (+6)</b>
338 <b>EI7BA</b>	238	EI6IZ	249	EI9FBB
323 <b>EI3IO</b>	236	<b>EI4BZ (+6)</b>	192	<b>EI6FR (+8)</b>
306 <b>EI2HY</b>	208	EI2JD	146	EI9JF
301 <b>EI9FBB</b>	170	<b>EI8IU (+7)</b>	135	<b>EI6IZ (+12)</b>
287 <b>EI9JF</b>	155	EI1DG	121	EI3IO
271 <b>EI9O</b>	122	EI5GM	103	EI2JD
269 <b>EI2CR</b>	119	EI7GY		
262 <b>EI2GX</b>	109	EI2IH	15m	
262 <b>EI2JD</b>	109	EI4HM	279	<b>EI7BA (+9)</b>
255 <b>EI5GM</b>	107	EI/GM4ARJ	237	<b>EI6FR (+7)</b>
253 <b>EI6IZ</b>	100	EI6AL	229	EI9FBB
252 <b>EI4BZ (+10)</b>			193	EI3IO
249 <b>EI8GS</b>	<b>RTTY/Digital</b>		184	<b>EI4BZ (+11)</b>
226 <b>EI9FVB</b>	186	<b>EI7BA (+12)</b>	165	EI8GS
214 <b>EI8IU (+3)</b>	153	EI1DG	148	EI2JD
210 <b>EI6IL</b>	142	<b>EI6FR (+9)</b>	142	<b>EI9E (+31)</b>
194 <b>EI1DG</b>	118	EI6HB	138	EI6IZ
191 <b>EI4GXB (+51)</b>	<b>Satellite - No Entry</b>		124	EI9FVB
173 <b>EI6HB</b>			118	EI6HB
170 <b>EI4HH</b>	160m		109	EI3GV
164 <b>EI9E (+13)</b>	207	EI3IO	105	EI9JF
157 <b>EI2GLB (+55)</b>	198	<b>EI7BA (+9)</b>		
134 <b>EI9HQ</b>	118	EI9FBB	12m	
133 <b>EI7GY</b>	117	<b>EI6IZ (+6)</b>	231	<b>EI7BA (+9)</b>
129 <b>EI5GUB</b>	80m		172	EI9FBB
128 <b>EI8HA</b>	304	EI6S	10m	
117 <b>EI3HA</b>	254	<b>EI7BA (+3)</b>	253	EI3IO
111 <b>EI5IF</b>	206	EI9FBB	229	<b>EI7BA (+7)</b>
103 <b>EI6AL</b>	137	EI3IO	168	EI4BZ
101 <b>EI7JQ</b>	128	<b>EI6FR (+10)</b>	161	<b>EI6FR (+3)</b>
100 <b>EI4HQ</b>	124	EI2JD	157	EI9FBB
	117	<b>EI4BZ (+4)</b>	144	EI7GL
	115	<b>EI6IZ (+11)</b>	144	EI8GS
			134	EI2JD
<b>Phone</b>	40m		128	EI4GK
348 <b>EI6S</b>	284	<b>EI7BA (+3)</b>	109	<b>EI9E (+7)</b>
345 <b>EI7CC</b>	219	EI9FBB		
339 <b>EI8EM (+5)</b>	177	EI9JF	6m	
338 <b>EI2GS</b>	176	EI3IO	160	EI3IO
331 <b>EI8AR</b>	171	<b>EI6FR (+10)</b>	111	EI7GL
325 <b>EI6FR (+5)</b>	153	<b>EI6IZ (+10)</b>	102	EI9FBB
322 <b>EI7BA (+2)</b>	152	EI2JD	101	EI3EBB
300 <b>EI8AU</b>				
286 <b>EI3GV</b>				

DXCC Band Status (14/04/11)											
		160m	80m	40m	30m	20m	17m	15m	12m	10m	6m
10	EI9FBB										
9	EI3IO										
9	EI7BA										
7	EI6FR										
7	EI6IZ										
6	EI2JD										
6	EI4BZ										
5	EI9JF										
4	EI9E										
3	EI7GL										
3	EI8GS										
2	EI3GV										
2	EI6HB										
2	EI9FVB										
1	EI3EBB										
1	EI4GK										
1	EI6S										
1	EI9HQ										

## North Cork Radio Group Annual Rally & Electronics Fair

After last years success, the North Cork Radio Group is pleased to announce their second annual rally and electronics fair at the Blarney Golf Resort, Tower, Co Cork. on Sunday September the 11th 2011.

The doors open to the public at 11.30 and the rally will run throughout the afternoon. The usual traders will be on hand with some very tasty bargains, South East Communications, Long Communications and JBT Trading.

The Hotel are also offering room deals for the rally, a room only from €59 and double room inc B&B: €79 Please contact the hotel directly for room bookings on: Tel:+353 21 4384477 . [www.blarneygolfresort.com](http://www.blarneygolfresort.com)

Small traders are very welcome but it essential that they contact the events organiser Liam EI7GTB, Tel: 085-7039042. Email: [ei7gtb@gmail.com](mailto:ei7gtb@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Further details can be found via the group's website, [www.ei1nc.com.com](http://www.ei1nc.com.com)



## Bangor and District ARS Radio and Computer Rally

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011

Donaghadee Community Centre  
Donaghadee, County Down BT21

Starts at 12 noon Admission £2.00

Plenty of attractions include : Special interest stands, bring and buy, ballot and a good selection of radio and computer traders

Presntation by Ian White GM3SEK on Ferrite Cores & Baluns

Information and a map is available at our website [www.bdars.com](http://www.bdars.com)

Contact Bill GI4AAM for further details:

Tel: 028 9181 6707

Email: [bill.langtry@btinternet.com](mailto:bill.langtry@btinternet.com)

## Lagan Valley ARS

The Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society wishes to thank all those who attended our rally on 19 March 2011.

We were delighted with the numbers through the door and also the support given to us by those traders who were able to be present. We hope you enjoyed your visit, met up with old friends and perhaps made a few new ones too. If you made a purchase, we trust you will be pleased with it.

It was marvellous to see so many excellent items on the bring and buy stand, one of the best displays which I have seen in many years.

Two visitors may have arrived home to find they left something behind them. A headset for a Kenwood "handi" was found in the hall after everyone had left. If this is yours please contact me by e-mail or by telephone (028 9266 2270) when you can be reunited with it.

I also have in my possession a book which was purchased from the bookstall but found on another stand at the end of the rally. If this is yours please contact me, giving the name of the publication, and arrangements can be made to get it back to you.

Once again, many thanks to you all for you support. We look forward to seeing you at the same venue on Saturday, 10 March 2012.

73 de Jim, GI0DVU

## Echo Ireland Input

All input for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be sent to:

Dave Moore EI4BZ,  
Dooneen, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

[ei4bz@eircom.net](mailto:ei4bz@eircom.net) 087-6290574

## Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

Input to [newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie)

or urgent news by phone to

Aidan Noone EI7JC 085-7100511



## Mayo Radio Experimenters Network

John Browne, EI7FAB, won the 2010 Mayo Radio Experimenters annual club activity competition.

The annual event consists of twelve monthly competitions with accumulator points going to the annual award. John won four of the monthly competitions, and had half a point to spare over Dominic Curtin, EI9JS in the annual table.

All the monthly competitions are for on air activity and range from working Locator squares, DXCC countries, a novelty alpha-numeric grid and a month devoted to listening.

John McAndrew, EI3JM, (third,) Padraic Baynes, EI9JA, (fourth,) and Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB, make up the top five in the competition.

The club uniquely transmits the IRTS and local news on Sunday evenings simultaneously on four VHF bands - 6m, 4m, 2m and 70cms and the club is very active on these bands locally.

The news simulcast originally presented technical challenges, but these have been overcome thanks to the guidance of Dominic Curtin, EI9JS.

Mayo Radio Experimenters publishes a monthly newsletter for members and this is currently edited by John Corless, EI7IQ. He took over from David Hatfield, EI3ECB last summer.

At the recent AGM, Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB was re-elected Chairperson, and the club's two prestigious awards for contribution to the club and to the hobby went to Padraic Baynes, EI9JA and Dominic Curtin, EI9JS.

The club plans a monthly activity day where SWLs and the public will be invited to explore the hobby with portable set-ups at different locations on one Sunday per month from April to September. The club is active in all IRTS competitions using the club call, EI7MRE and individual members take part in many international contests. The club won the January 80m counties contest again this year. John Walsh, EI5GHB was well placed in this contest also.

Another member, Brendan Minish, EI6IZ, is one of the top CW testers in Europe. Theory classes are ongoing within the club under the guidance of John Corless, EI7IQ.

The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month in The Welcome Inn Hotel, Castlebar at 9.30pm local time. Visiting amateurs or curious radio enthusiasts are most welcome to come along.

## ZULU'S wait .....and.....wait for the sunrise

It's 0600 on March 20th 2011, the Amateur Portable Group are on the road again heading to LOUGHCREW for the Spring equinox, again we have been lucky enough to be invited.

All mobile from our QTH's, we meet up on 2m for our first QSO of the day (and to keep each other awake). On arrival in the car park at the base of Loughcrew, conditions were very poor with heavy fog and rain.

The equipment seemed to get heavier on the steep pathway to the tomb and on arrival the small crowd who have gathered for the sunrise are probably thinking the same as us, are we mad, at least we have the radio.

After setting up we discovered a problem. One of our trusty fishing pole antennas refused to tune, then one of our external tuners went on the blink but at least our trusty 897D was still working.

The wind began to gust strongly and blew down our new portable beam causing some damage and puts it out of commission and at this point the rain is also lashing down and for the first time we considered abandoning one of our events.

After a quick coffee we regrouped and set up the 897D, a 9m fishing pole antenna and we also have the half size G5RV (just in case).

The two main problems we then had were the Russian contest and trying to keep the equipment dry.

All the contacts on the day were European and sadly only one EI on 2m, EI5GFB. Thanks Alan!

Early afternoon we decided, with the rain and wind still battering us and to save our sanity we would close down and head for home.

The descent to the car park resembled the downhill at the winter Olympics (mud instead of snow) and Dave EI7GEB who was carrying the battery amongst other items looked like he was competing for a medal.

Who says amateur radio is boring ?

Operators on the day were Charlie EI8JB, Dave EI7GEB and John EI6GHB.

Here's to our next event and hopefully some sunshine.

*Pictured on right, EI6GHB trying to keep the rain out.*



EI8JB & EI6GHB trying to escape



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